

May 21-22, 2015

**ITEM 167-2007-R0515**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Emeritus Associate Teaching Professor of Anatomy and Histology upon Ms. Susan K. Gibson; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Susan Gibson from the non-tenure track faculty of Montana State University, the faculty wishes to express its deep appreciation for her years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the state of Montana by requesting that the rank of Emeritus Associate Teaching Professor be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

The Montana WWAMI Medical Program was started in 1973 with a mission to provide opportunities for medical education to residents of Montana and to provide a physician workforce to serve the State. In partnership with the University of Washington School of Medicine, which grants the MD degrees, the students spend their first year of courses at MSU. Two key courses in that year, which provide the foundation of all medical studies, are "Gross" Anatomy and Histology (also known as "Microscopic" Anatomy). Susan Gibson started teaching in the anatomy course for WWAMI in 1983, and taught for more than 30 years at MSU for a total of 487 semester credits and 225 quarter credits. Her teaching was primarily in the WWAMI Program, but she also taught undergraduate courses in both Anatomy and Histology for the Biology Department, and later the Cell Biology and Neuroscience Department, at MSU.

Susan won more than 30 awards for her teaching from 1984 through 2014; they are too many to enumerate here, but it is worth mentioning that she received the Award for Excellence 16 times. Her student evaluations were consistently excellent, and she is remembered fondly by all the alumni who took her courses.

Susan was an innovator in her teaching; in 1998 she developed a CD of teaching materials for Histology that she continually updated. It was used for the Histology course at all WWAMI sites and at other medical schools. In recent years, she collaborated with a pathologists to introduce more pathology slides and disease descriptions into the course, in anticipation of the UW Curriculum Renewal that will integrate the first and second year courses.

Susan also co-directed the Body Donation Program for 14 years. She did much of the work preparing the bodies for use by the students, handled communications with donors and families with great sensitivity, and educated the students in the respectful treatment of the cadavers. She officially retired at the end of 2013, but taught once more in Fall 2014. Granting her emeritus status would provide a small token of recognition for the outstanding service she has provided to MSU.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Ms. Susan K. Gibson, the title of Associate Teaching Professor Emeritus, of the WWAMI Medical Program at Montana State and wishes her well for many years in the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No attachments