

November 17-18, 2016

**ITEM 173-1502-R1116**

**Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Chemistry & Geochemistry upon Stephen R. Parker – Montana Tech of the University of Montana.**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Stephen R. Parker from the faculty of Montana Tech of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 27 years of outstanding Teaching, Research and Service to the campus and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents for the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Parker, who had recently earned an M.S. in Biochemistry from Indiana University, joined the Department of Chemistry & Geochemistry as an Instructor and Laboratory Director in 1988. In this capacity, he made educational and technological innovations to the entire department's teaching Laboratories, including the first use of computers for capturing lab data and processing results graphically. In 2005 Professor Parker completed his Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Montana. He was subsequently promoted to Associate Professor in 2006 and Full Professor in 2010. During his time as Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor at Montana Tech, Professor Parker distinguished himself in undergraduate and graduate education, as well as in successful grant writing and published peer-reviewed research. In particular, Professor Parker developed a vigorous research effort in Environmental Geochemistry, including the use of stable isotopes of oxygen, hydrogen and carbon to investigate biogeochemical processes in rivers, lakes, and groundwater. Dr. Parker was lead PI on two major research grants funded through the National Science Foundation, one of which brought new instrumentation to Montana Tech to measure the isotopic composition of organic and inorganic forms of carbon. Through his close mentoring relationships, his enthusiasm for field and laboratory research has transferred to dozens of undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Parker has been first or contributing author on more than 20 scientific articles in top international journals, including *Environmental Science and Technology*, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, *Chemical Geology*, *Biogeochemistry*, *Applied Geochemistry*, *Science of the Total Environment*, *Water Air and Soil Pollution*, and the *Journal of Volcanology and Scientific Research*. Although most of his field and laboratory research has been centered in western Montana, he has conducted detailed scientific investigations of geologically and anthropologically acidified rivers as far away as Patagonia, Argentina and southern Spain. Dr. Parker has given presentations at countless regional, national, and international meetings, including annual conferences of the V.M. Goldschmidt Geochemical Society, and the American Geophysical Union (AGU). His published works are highly cited in the scholarly literature, and are a testament to the high quality of research that is possible to achieve at a non-Ph.D.-granting institution such as Montana Tech.

The Montana Tech faculty, and the faculty of the Department of Chemistry & Geochemistry wish to thank Professor Parker and are honored to nominate Professor Stephen R. Parker for faculty emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None.