

November 17-18, 2011

ITEM 153-1003-R1111

Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences: Rick Billstein; The University of Montana–Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of his retirement from the Department of Mathematical Sciences at The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation to Professor Rick Billstein for his forty-two years of dedicated service by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred on him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Rick Billstein earned a B.A. in Mathematics in 1966 from Eastern Montana College (now MSU–Billings). After completing his Master of Arts degree at The University of Montana, he joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UM as an Instructor in 1969. He completed his Ph.D. at The University of Montana and in 1973 became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Rick was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 1977 and to the rank of Professor in 1982. He served as the Department Associate Chairman in 1979–83 and in 1984–85, participated in numerous National Science Foundation review panels and National Advisory Boards. Over the years at The University of Montana Rick has earned the admiration of his students and the respect of his colleagues.

During his career Rick has brought distinguished recognition to both The University of Montana and the State of Montana. He was a director of a seven year NSF funded “Six Through Eight Mathematics Project”, as well as the recipient of another large NSF grant, “Middle Grades Mathematics, Phase II”. He has written over 55 articles, has given over 700 professional presentations, and wrote and edited numerous books on Middle School Mathematics for both students and elementary school teachers. Rick brought millions of dollars in grant money to The University of Montana, and was recognized as outstanding alumnus and Distinguished Teacher. In 2011 Rick became a recipient of Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment.

The Department of Mathematical Sciences is honored to recommend Professor Rick Billstein for Emeritus status.