

**September 17-18-2014**

**ITEM 164-2703-R0914**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Chancellor Emeritus upon Dr. Rolf S. Groseth**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Chancellor Rolf S. Groseth from the administration at Montana State University Billings; the faculty, students, administration and community wish to extend their appreciation for his 37 years of dedicated and valued service to the Montana University System; Montana State University Billings; Montana State University; Montana State University Northern; the cities of Billings, Bozeman, Havre; and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Chancellor Emeritus be conferred on him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Rolf S. Groseth graduated in 1969 with a B. A. in Political Science from Michigan State University where he was a stand-out varsity swimmer. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Groseth served in the United States Army from August, 1969 to August, 1971. A year of this service was spent in Vietnam. Groseth was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant. Following his time in the service, Groseth returned to the classroom where he earned his M. S. in Higher Education/Student Personnel from Iowa State University in 1972. Groseth held his first professional position on a college campus when he was appointed Director of New South Hall at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Groseth joined the University of Florida in 1973 where he served as Assistant Dean for Student Services/Coordinator of Veterans Programs. While working at the University of Florida, he pursued a doctorate of Higher Education Administration, which he was awarded in 1978. Although the early stages of Groseth's career were primarily spent on the Atlantic coast, he held an affinity for the West. Groseth relished summer break when he could pack his car and head to Colorado for a fishing and sightseeing sabbatical. With the Northern Rockies beckoning, Groseth advanced his career when he accepted his first position, of many, at Montana State University as Student Activities Director. While at MSU, Dr. Groseth served as Assistant/Associate Dean of Students, Vice Provost and Dean of Students, Executive Assistant to the President/MSU System Coordinator and Vice President for Inter-Campus Affairs. In 2008, Groseth was called upon by then MSU President Dr. Geoffrey Gamble to serve his most pivotal role to date as Interim Chancellor at Montana State University Northern. Groseth immediately began working with the community of Havre to strengthen their university. Although his tenure as Interim Chancellor only lasted 18 months, his efforts still resonate through the Hi-line today. Groseth then returned to the Bozeman campus for what turned out to be a very short period of time. In 2010, Chancellor Ron Sexton of Montana State University Billings announced his retirement and Groseth was quickly dispatched to serve as interim for that campus as well. Following a national search, Dr. Rolf Groseth was inaugurated as the 10<sup>th</sup> CEO or 2<sup>nd</sup> Chancellor of Montana State University Billings.

As Chancellor, Dr. Groseth brought to his position a strong belief in student engagement, academic excellence and access to higher education. His belief of firmly embedding the University in its community to serve the cultural, workforce and economic development needs of the community was paramount to his vision for a vibrant campus. Groseth was quoted telling faculty, staff, students and constituents that it is important for MSU Billings to be "a University of the community, not simply a University in the

community.”

In his 2007 book, *Academic Turnarounds*, Terrence MacTaggart describes three phases that campuses must go through to achieve vitality for the long-term: achieving financial stability, marketing and branding, strengthening academic programs and culture. What Terrance MacTaggart penned, Chancellor Groseth put into motion.

Under Dr. Groseth’s stewardship, MSUB was awarded \$10 million by the Montana Legislature for the expansion and renovation of the teaching and research facilities for science and allied health on the University campus. Through his aid, the conclusion of the Opportunity Campaign saw an infusion of over \$7 million that went directly toward student scholarships. Groseth’s savvy investments in developing the talent of faculty, staff and students helped MSU Billings become the Montana University System’s most efficient campus for cost of completion.

During Chancellor Groseth’s tenure, he worked diligently on behalf of two-year institutions in Montana, culminating with the launch of City College at Montana State University Billings in 2012 and the University System pilot, “What’s Your Plan” advertising campaign to raise awareness of the two-year campuses.

To achieve vitality for the long-term, Chancellor Groseth, in consultation with key university stakeholders, developed an institutional strategic plan titled “FUTUREU.” This living document is a blueprint for MSU Billings’ future success.

Passionate for student success, Chancellor Groseth knew that cultivating faculty leadership and encouraging participation would ultimately benefit students attending MSU Billings. Groseth was committed to growing meaningful programs and degrees. It is this commitment that led to the development and implementation of Academic Program Prioritization. The initiative guided faculty, deans and staff through a decision making process that helped the institution invest in programs that are pivotal to long-term success, while divesting in programs that may not serve today’s student. Above all, Chancellor Groseth instilled a belief across campus that “shared governance” could thrive. He developed a culture where faculty is empowered, staff is engaged and each student’s educational experiences is maximized.

For these reasons and more, Montana State University Billings is honored to recommend Dr. Rolf S. Groseth for Emeritus status.

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## ATTACHMENTS

No attachments