

May 21-22, 2015

**ITEM 167-2004-R0515**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Microbiology upon Dr. Gill Geesey;  
Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Gill Geesey from the faculty of Montana State University, the faculty wishes to express its deep appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the state of Montana by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Geesey received his masters and doctoral degrees from Oregon State University prior to joining the faculty at California State University, Long Beach. After serving as a tenured faculty with CSU for 13 years Dr. Geesey brought his years of experience to the Department of Microbiology at Montana State University. Originally joining the MSU faculty in 1991 as an associate professor, Dr. Geesey was promoted to full professor in 1993. During his 23 years of service at MSU Dr. Geesey defined himself as an exceptional mentor, teacher and member of the educational and research communities.

Dr. Geesey's incredibly rich and productive history at the university greatly enhanced the expertise and international recognition of the department's Environmental Microbiology program. He expanded upon the pioneering scholarship of Gordon McFetters, Ken Temple, Bill Walters and David Ward, among other faculty, Dr. Geesey's contributions to the research mission of the department have been considerable. His research influenced many developing fields of microbiology. Dr. Geesey is co-author on several seminal publications that formed the foundation of the biofilm-discipline, including publications in *Annual Review of Microbiology*, *Scientific American*, and *Current Opinion in Microbiology*. His research also greatly impacted the beginning fields of geomicrobiology and environmental biofilms, as well as microbial ecology, in general. In addition, Dr. Geesey was a leader in his field influencing the combination of physiological and ecological methods in order to understand metal-microbe interactions important to bioremediation, elemental metal cycling, and metal corrosion.

An active participant in many interdisciplinary research efforts at MSU, Dr. Geesey was an early member of the Center for Biofilm Engineering, and the Thermal Biology Institute, among other collaborative research efforts. These projects caused his influence to leave a lasting impact not just in the Microbiology Department but across the university as a whole.

Dr. Geesey was a major reason that the Microbiology Department was considered to be one of the premier departments on campus for so many years. He published nearly 200 publications in his career in some of the most prestigious microbiology journals. Recognition of his research was evident in the many citations of his papers (h-index of 36 with almost 6,000 citations), consistently one of the most cited within the department for multiple years. Recognition of his research expertise and productivity is also reflected in his many service, editorial and grant review activities. Dr. Geesey was awarded research fellowships at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Hasanuddin University in Ujung Pandang, Indonesia, and at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He also received many special awards, including the 3M Corporation Research Award (1993), the American Society for Microbiology Proctor & Gamble Award in Applied and Environmental Microbiology (2001), and is a prestigious Fellow of

the American Academy of Microbiology. Gill is a highly respected scholar in his field who has had a great impact via his scientific contributions, as well as, supportive interactions that attracted national and international recognition to the department and university.

In addition to being recognized internationally for his research, Dr. Geesey was also an outstanding teacher. He mentored numerous undergraduate and graduate students in his lab, leading to many co-authored papers. One of his graduate students, Dr. Eric Boyd, was latter recruited back to the department and is one of the leading new assistant professors, helping move the newly merged Department of Microbiology and Immunology forward in both its research and teaching mission. Dr. Geesey taught both undergraduate and graduate students courses in the microbiology curriculum, ranging from general microbiology, to environmental microbiology, and biotechnology; and he taught all level of courses.

Dr. Geesey was an outstanding teacher and mentor, not just to his students, but to the MSU community. Dr. Geesey distinguished himself among his colleges by taking advantage of online teaching resources very early in his career and made many of his lectures available online not only to students, but anyone interested in environmental microbiology outside of the university. He was also involved in teaching summer courses for continuing education credits for secondary education teachers. He was an outstanding member of the community and sought to give back by being an exceptional advisor, and by volunteering for campus events, such as commencement, and yearly phonathons. He has been a true ambassador for the department and university.

In conclusion, I urge the College, University and the Board of Regents to appoint Dr. Gill Geesey Emeritus Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments