

March 3-4, 2016

ITEM 170-2705-R0316

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Educational Theory and Practice, Montana State University Billings, upon Dr. Anton (Tony) Hecimovic

THAT

Upon the retirement of Dr. Tony Hecimovic from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty of the College of Education extends its appreciation to Dr. Hecimovic for 26 years of dedication and valued service to the College, University, and community. In recognition of his exemplary professional competence and compelling evidence of effective service, we recommend that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Hecimovic's educational history includes a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's Degree in Clinical and Developmental Psychology, and a Ph.D. in Special Education in 1983 from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. He joined the faculty at MSU Eastern Montana College in August, 1990 to serve as the Director of the Montana Center. While serving as an administrator for the Montana Center he occasionally taught courses in Special Education in the College of Education and Human Services. In 1992 he moved from the Montana Center to an Associate Professor position in the Department of Educational Foundations and was promoted to Full Professor in Educational Theory and Practice in 2002.

Dr. Hecimovic's distinguished teaching has encompassed both undergraduate and graduate teaching. He has taught several of the lower division courses introducing students to teaching and its pivotal roles in maintaining and advancing a democratic society as well as introducing students to the foundations of human development, educational psychology, and measurement. Unlike many universities where these important introductory courses are taught by adjunct or graduate student instructors, Dr. Hecimovic made sure students new to teaching developed the knowledge bases they would need to grow into effective and knowledgeable educators. At the graduate level, he has taught an advanced course designed to help graduate students examine the major theories that inform human learning and development and to critique these theories based on empirical support. He has also taught a course in research design and interpretation designed to help graduate students develop a deeper understanding of both qualitative and quantitative research. These graduate courses are part of the core requirements for all graduate students seeking licensure and for many of the other graduate programs in the College of Education. Additionally, Dr. Hecimovic has co-taught courses with colleagues both in the COE and the interdisciplinary Honors program. Consistently positive student evaluations as well as peer reviews provide compelling evidence of his exemplary professional competence in teaching. He was a recipient of a Faculty Excellence Award in recognition, by his peers, of his ongoing strengths in teaching, scholarship, and service. As a faculty advisor in the College of Education he has worked with hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, helping them plan and successfully complete their programs of study. He has served on numerous Thesis committees, often as Chair, in the College of Education and other MSUB colleges. In supporting excellence in teaching across the campus, Dr. Hecimovic has

conducted dozens of peer reviews designed to help faculty at all levels recognize their strengths and identify the areas where they can improve.

Over the span of his teaching career at MSUB, Dr. Hecimovic has co-authored more than 20 publications, co-authored several book chapters, and presented his research at dozens of state, regional, and national conferences. When he and his colleagues, while teaching the Human Development in Education course were unable to find a textbook that met their students' learning needs, he worked with these colleagues to write their own textbook that is still used in teaching this course. Dr. Hecimovic's scholarship has made significant contributions to psychological and special education issues as they impact the work done by K-12 educators.

Dr. Hecimovic's service to the campus has also had a profound and lasting impact on Montana State University Billings. As the institution transitioned from Eastern Montana College to Montana State University Billings, expectations for faculty research and scholarly development increased. Dr. Hecimovic was responsible for organizing and managing the process of creating a Federally-registered Institutional Review Board to review campus research with the intent of protecting the rights and welfare of human subjects participating in research activities. He then served as the Chair of the IRB for several years. His work in establishing MSUB's IRB led to his membership on the Billings Hospital IRB for several years.

Dr. Hecimovic has served on a number of University committees over the years:

- University Budget Committee (Co-Chair)
- Faculty-Administration Collaborative Committee
- Graduate Committee (Chair)
- University Rank and Tenure Committee (Chair)
- Research and Creative Endeavors (RACE), then renamed to CARE (Chair)
- Honors Program Advisory Committee
- Teacher Education Appeals Committee
- Enrollment Management
- Collective Bargaining

At the college level, he has served on a number of accreditation committees, the Program Appeals Committee, the Department Rank and Tenure Committee, and the Curriculum Committee as well as serving as Department Chair for four years. He has been instrumental in serving as Faculty Mentor to many of the new faculty in the College of Education. His commitment to students is evidenced by his role as Faculty Advisor to several student organizations.

He has served on numerous search committees across campus for faculty in all colleges, often serving as chair, as well as administrative positions, including the most recent search for the Chancellor. Dr. Hecimovic has served on the Faculty Association Executive Board for over 10 years. As evidence of the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues, he was elected President of the Faculty Association in 2014 and continues to serve in that capacity. As President of the Faculty Association he leads the team in identifying and working to resolve issues that impact the work and lives of faculty member. His scholarly expertise has led to serving as Grant Evaluator and Report Writer on numerous grants, including several Math/Science Partnership grants with Billings School District #2 that have been geared to improve opportunities for students in STEM content areas. He has provided staff development activities to Billings School District #2 as well as smaller districts across Montana and Wyoming. Dr. Hecimovic demonstrates the kind of faculty member whose work is truly meritorious. Evaluations by students and

peers of his teaching and his record in scholarship attest to his exemplary professional competence. His leadership and service have touched every aspect of the MSUB campus as well as made contributions to the educational community, both local and national. For these and other contributions to the College, University, and community, the faculty of the Department of Educational Theory and Practice of the College of Education are honored to nominate Dr. Anton Hecimovic to the rank of Professor Emeritus of Education at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

None