

November 17-18, 2016

ITEM 173-2002-R1116

Request authorization from the Board of Regents to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Earth Science upon James Schmitt

THAT

Authorization is requested from the Board of Regents to grant Dr. James Schmitt emeritus status at Montana State University with the title Professor Emeritus of Earth Sciences.

EXPLANATION

Dr. James Schmitt has been a faculty member at Montana State University since 1984 and attained the rank of Professor in 2010. He served as the Department Head from 1998-2002. He received his PhD from the University of Wyoming in 1982. He retired from MSU on June 30, 2016.

Jim has been a great asset to the Department of Earth Sciences through both his teaching excellence and his research productivity. His research interests have included the sedimentology and stratigraphy of the northern Rocky Mountains, the relationship between tectonics and sediment transport and deposition, and processes that lead to alluvial fan deposition. He has authored over 40 publications and geologic maps and advised 42 graduate student thesis projects. He has further served on 114 graduate thesis committees. For his scholarly activity, Jim has been awarded an Excellence of Poster Presentation Award from the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM), an Honorable Mention for the Best Oral Presentation from SEPM, the Cox Family Fund Award for Excellence in Creative Scholarship and Teaching at MSU, and the Outstanding Professor Award from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Alumni Association. He has received extramural funding for his research from the National Science Foundation, the American Chemical Society, the United States Geological Association, and a number of other agencies and foundations. Jim has been named a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and he has served as the editor and associate editor for a number of top-tier geoscience journals.

Jim has taught over 24 different courses during his 32 years at MSU. He has been nominated for the MSU Presidential Teaching Award three times and has received the College of Letters and Science Outstanding Teaching Award. He has served as the Team Lead for a number of initiatives to address undergraduate geoscience education across the country. Twelve undergraduate students have completed thesis projects or participated in mapping projects under Jim's leadership. Jim has participated in education outreach through participation in a variety of activities from the Montana Science Olympiad to serving as an advisor to the Discovery Channel film productions.

In summary, Jim has provided commendable service to Montana State University, the Department of Earth Sciences and the broad geoscience community across our nation and our planet.

ATTACHMENTS

None