

September 14-15, 2016

ITEM 172-2701-R0916

Request for authorization to confer the title of Adjunct Instructor Emeritus of Business Administration upon Mr. Gary Amundson

THAT

Upon the retirement of Mr. Gary Amundson from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty of the College of Business extends its appreciation to Mr. Amundson for 17 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 Adjunct Instructor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Gary Amundson has been an instructor in the College of Business at Montana State University Billings for 17 years. For the previous twelve years, he was Senior Vice President for a major Montana-based firm that was publicly traded and did business throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as Mexico, Europe, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. He served as a director for several industry trade associations. He served as a director for several industry trade associations, and served a three-year term as national chair for one of the industry trade associations. Prior to that he was a Lecturer at the University of Arizona in Tucson for nine years.

Gary Amundson was honored for the Excellence in Teaching Outstanding Faculty Award for the 2015-2016, the 2011-2012, and the 2001-2002 school years by the Associated Students at MSU Billings. Gary was selected for the Montana State University Bozeman President's Pure Gold Award in January 2016. In December of 2008, Amundson was given the Distinguished Service Award for years of outstanding service to students and industry at the University of Arizona. He was honored as Montana State University Billings 2006-2007 Faculty Excellence Award for Non-Tenured Faculty; he was cited for the Outstanding Teaching Award at MSU Billings for 2002-2003 year by Faculty in the College of Business. He was named Club Advisor of the Year at the University of Arizona in 1985; and given *Emeritus Status* in 2004 by the University of Arizona Foundation for his significant work for many years on an Industry Advisory Council. In 2004, he was awarded an Honorary Degree from Skyview High School in Billings for his service on the school's PAC Committee.

At MSU Billings, Amundson has been credited with helping develop, lead and nurture the College of Business successful online General Business option program. Approximately 55% of all COB students are transfers and in 2014-2013-2012, a study submitted by Amundson to the Montana University System's "Tuning Committee" showed that over 300 students had transferred to MSUB College of Business in those three years, greatly contributing to the enrollment of which online is a major recipient. Amundson regularly advises all the approximate 100+ online junior and senior General Business majors. In May 2016, 31 students will graduate with the General Business option over 30% of the approximate 100. Amundson has been involved in recruitment and retention of all COB majors, particularly the online students. He has traveled to various Native American and Montana 2 year schools to help bring transfers to MSUB. He is a member of the COB APC committee entrusted with improving the online curriculum.

Amundson directs the College of Business Internship program that has led to hundreds of full time jobs by COB graduates both in and outside Billings since Amundson assumed this responsibility over 10 years ago. Although most are in the greater Billings area, notable exceptions have been in North Dakota, Minnesota, Wyoming, Washington, California, Texas, Florida, New York and Chicago as well as Chile, Mexico, China, and Saudi Arabia.

He has regularly been a liaison between MSUB and the business/professional community in Yellowstone County. **He conducted Accounting CPE Seminars in Billings** and eastern Montana during the 1990s and early 2000s. Although most were for Accounting CPE, others dealt with a wide array of topics including Agriculture, International Business, and Energy.

Amundson has been a member of many committees on campus at MSUB but highlights are of the Career Services Advisory Board for over 14 years. Amundson has been a member of the Montana University System's "Inter University Benefits Committee" that deals primarily with health insurance and retirement. The IUBC has two members from each campus in Montana and the self-funded insurance plan covers over 12,000 persons. The IUBC insurance committee is a highly complicated and ever changing environment for this major benefit to all workers in Billings and Montana. Amundson represents all MSUB faculty and staff and travels to Helena and other Montana cities to meet for sub committees on Retirement and Planned Change, as well as the Committee as a Whole. He served on two major MUS Board of Regents special committees "Tuning" and "Common Core Numbering".

Amundson's specific teaching responsibilities have been split between face to face and online classes plus the responsibility of the internships fall, spring and summer. In addition, his year around contract allowed him to be the Acting COB Department Chair during the summer for the past few years.

His BGEN 105A class has been taught both online and face to face for each spring, summer and fall semesters since Amundson first taught this Gen Ed class in 1998. They have been the largest FTE enrolled classes in the COB. His classes have been innovative and highly praised by students in both venues. Amundson employed "Lab Leaders" who were outstanding students in the class when they were juniors and seniors. The Labs proved very successful as the Lab Leaders led smaller 15-20 students every Friday in the LA building. They tutored and implemented Jeopardy Test reviews for tests, reviewed papers/projects and short speeches. Lab Leader evaluations by students are off the charts and it has become a coveted position for upper level students.

Amundson's Financial Planning classes also meet online every Fall, Spring and Summer term and have been done live during Intersession for 9 years. It is a must take class and arguably should be a requirement of all students.

In 2015 & 2016, Amundson published along with S. Boumediene and B. Gurney a Peer-Reviewed Paper titled, "Fake Pharmaceuticals a \$431 Billion Market", presented at the IABE 2015 Fall Conference. Then it was updated and accepted for publication in 2016 as "Methods to Battle The \$431 Billion Fake Pharmaceutical Industry" and presented at the Global Conference on Business and Finance (GCBF) and it won the Outstanding Research Award and the Best in Session Award. Salem Boumediene presented.

Amundson has a rich and strong business background. As Senior Vice President of United Tote based in the Billings area for 12 years prior to coming to MSUB, Amundson helped lead this highly successful company to a public offering on NASDAQ, and played a major role in many of its successes. Hired to expand the company, Amundson traveled extensively and was responsible for growing the company. During Amundson's tenure, the company's industry market share grew from less than 5% to over 30% when the company was sold. United Tote employed over 1200 employees at its peak. Amundson was a Corporate Officer for 11 of United's other entities. His background in business was a major benefit to his teaching and outreach success in the College of Business.

ATTACHMENTS:

None