

January 12, 2017

**ITEM 174-2701-R0117**

**Request for Authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Biology upon Dr. Tasneem Khaleel**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Tasneem Khaleel from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, College of Arts and Sciences, the faculty extends its appreciation to Dr. Tasneem Khaleel for her 41 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences, to the University, and to the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Since joining the Biology faculty in 1976, Dr. Khaleel has made major contributions to her department, the University and to the community in teaching, service, scholarship, and other professional areas. She was awarded tenure in 1979 and promoted to Associate Professor in 1980 and Full Professor in 1986. During her tenure at MSUB/EMC, Dr. Khaleel served the Department, the College and the University as an administrator, leader, researcher, consultant, teacher and advisor. Dr. Khaleel has served as Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literature (1994-1996), Director of Graduate Studies and Research (1993-1996), Chair of the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences (1996-2004), and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2004-2015).

Dr. Khaleel earned her Ph.D. in Botany (1970) from Bangalore University, India; M.Sc. in Botany (1963) from Mysore University, India; and her B.Sc. in Botany and Zoology with a Minor in Chemistry (1961) from Mysore University, India.

During her tenure at Montana State University Billings, Dr. Khaleel has taught a diversity of Biology and Botany courses, authored and co-authored numerous publications, presented her research at state, regional, national and international conferences, received several faculty excellence awards, is the recipient of the Mershon Award from the Montana Academy of Science for her research, served as an external examiner on numerous thesis committees and obtained external grants from such prestigious funding agencies as the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The diversity of Dr. Khaleel's scholarly achievements revolved around the embryology and cytotaxonomy of plants in addition to her dedication to maintaining the MSU Billings herbarium, a regional and national plant archive. Dr. Khaleel's service to the campus has also had a profound and lasting impact on Montana State University Billings and the Science Department. The herbarium that Dr. Khaleel established, maintains and manages consolidated collections from the herbaria of Eastern Montana Normal School, Eastern Montana College, Rocky Mountain College, the U. S. Forest Service, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Land Management. She initiated a specimen exchange program with the U.S. Herbaria and created a database for 16,000 specimens, some of which date back to late 1800 and early 1900. The Herbarium is Registered in "Index Herbariorum", a global directory of public herbaria and is part of the Intermountain Region Herbarium Network. She published 4,676 specimens of Missouri Plateau plants to the national database of Consortium of Northern Great Plains

Herbaria. The Herbarium also serves as a tool for basic research in plant systematics, ecology, phytogeography, and evolution. The collections are also actively used in teaching and research as a resource to provide population localities for studies of a diverse nature, ranging from biological control to rare plants.

The measure of Dr. Khaleel's long and rich career must include all she has done toward the advancement of others. She has been and always will be a passionate advocate for students, science faculty, and the College of Arts and Sciences faculty and women. It is a testament to her passion and dedication that the university honored her by instituting the Dr. Tasneem Khaleel Award for Mentoring Young Professional Women in 2014. She was recognized last spring for her work with students from Disability Support Services.

It is therefore the consensus of her colleagues in the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences that her many contributions, as summarized above, make Dr. Tasneem Khaleel worthy of the designation of Professor Emeritus of Biology at Montana State University Billings.

The faculty of the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences are pleased to nominate Professor Dr. Tasneem Khaleel for the rank of Professor Emeritus of Biology at Montana State University Billings.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None