

November 16-17, 2017

ITEM 177-1006-R1117

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Psychology on Richard Van den Pol – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Richard Van den Pol from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 35 years of dedicated and valued service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Van den Pol earned his Ph.D. in Psychology from Western Michigan University and joined the University of Montana in 1981. Professor van den Pol rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor, and was promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Teaching and Learning in 1992. He served as Director of the Institute for Educational Research and Service from 1983 until he retired in 2016.

Professor Van den Pol was a very successful and popular teacher. He earned strong teaching evaluations from his students and he was evaluated consistently as an outstanding teacher and researcher by his colleagues. He was recognized for bringing practical solutions into his classroom teaching with the John Ruffatto Memorial Award in 2000.

Professor Van den Pol's research was wide-ranging and focused on topics important to Montana and the nation. He testified before the US House of Representatives Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education as an expert on early intervention for children. His testimony helped shape Public Law 99-457 which was signed into law by President Reagan in 1986. He was active in research grant development, generating more than one million dollars in awards annually. With BOR approval, he established two research centers within the Institute, the Montana State Safe Schools Center and the National Native Children's Trauma Center. Both Centers employed significant numbers of research faculty, graduate students and professional clinicians and researchers. He is an active researcher with numerous publications and service on journal editorial boards. Beginning in 2002, he shifted his focus to improving school-based mental health treatment and suicide prevention for Native American youth. He and his team subsequently were invited to develop programs in all of Montana's sovereign Indian Nations as well as in Washington, Idaho, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota and Alaska. His success in bridging campus-community interests was recognized with the Tom Boone Town and Gown Award. In 2014, Professor van den Pol was invited to testify before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, and his remarks contributed to an expansion of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network to better meet the needs of Native youth.

Professor Van den Pol played an important service role on campus in addition to his contributions in the areas of teaching and research. He served on numerous committees, task forces and boards including the Institutional Review Board for Protection of Human Subjects and the Executive Board of the University Faculty Association.

The faculty is pleased to nominate Dr. Van den Pol for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments