

May 2018

ITEM 179-1505-R0518

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Chemistry upon Dr. Douglas Coe – Montana Tech of the University of Montana

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Douglas Coe from the faculty of Montana Tech, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 37 years of dedication and valued service by requesting the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Douglas (Doug) Coe grew up in Plains, Montana, where his parents published the local newspaper, *The Plainsman*. He graduated from Montana State University in 1969 with a B.S. degree in Chemistry. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1974 with a Ph.D. in physical chemistry, where he used infrared and Raman spectroscopy to study the conformations of small molecules trapped in argon matrices at 30 K. Subsequently he held positions as a Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar at Furman University; a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Idaho, working with Dr. Jean'ne Shreeve on the spectra of per-fluoro sulfur compounds; and visiting positions at Sonoma State College, the Illinois Institute of Technology, Rollins College, and the Colorado School of Mines.

In 1981 Dr. Coe accepted a position as an assistant professor of chemistry at the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, where he was promoted to associate professor in 1984 and full professor in 1992. Believing that administration would provide interesting challenges and an opportunity to do good (it provided both), he served as Department Head of Chemistry from 1991 to 1995, Dean of the College of Mathematics and Sciences and Department Head in Chemistry from 1996 to 1997, Acting Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research during 1997-1998, Dean of the College of Mathematics and Sciences and Department Head in Chemistry from 1998 to 2005, and finally Dean of the College of Letters, Sciences, and Professional Studies from 2005 to the present.

For 34 of his years at Montana Tech, Dr. Coe taught courses in primarily general chemistry and physical chemistry and its associated labs. Along the way he developed or co-developed and taught courses in polymer chemistry, chemical literature, and computational chemistry. His true love was and remains teaching and in recent years he cherished the opportunities he had to teach physical chemistry offering a respite from the challenges of administration. He has authored 13 publications and given numerous presentations. In 1990 he was the recipient of the Burlington Resources Foundation Faculty Achievement Award.

Dr. Coe was Co-Director of the Southwest Montana Science and Engineering Fair from 1988 to 1992 and served as a 1st Round International Science and Engineering Judge in 2004. In 2013 he was presented the Paul and Paulette Miller Award for Service to the Science Fair. From 2006 to 2016 Dr. Coe served on evaluation teams for six Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accreditation visits. He was Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, which laid the groundwork for Montana Tech's current Strategic Plan and Chair of the Montana Tech Mission Committee, which proposed Montana Tech's current mission statement. He chaired the Montana Tech Chancellor's Search Advisory Committee, which recommended hiring Montana Tech's current

Chancellor, and also chaired the search committee, which recommended the hiring of the current Director of the Bureau of Mines and Geology and State Geologist.

Dr. Coe served (with able help from others) as PI from 2007 to 2017 on three successful *Montana Minds, Scholarships for Science and Engineering Students* NSF-STEM grants. These grants which totaled \$1.6 million dollars provided \$6,000 to \$6,500 in annually renewable scholarships to 99 students and had a measureable impact on the enrollment in several of our science, mathematics, and computer programs.

Dr. Coe has for 42 years been an active member of the American Chemical Society (ACS), where he served at the national level on the Membership Affairs Committee (2001-2004) and regionally as the Chair of the Western Region Councilor's Caucus (1999). In 1989 he served as Chair of the Montana Section of the ACS and from 1997 to 2004 represented the Montana Section at the national level as Councilor. From 1990 to 1997 he served on the National General Chemistry Examination Committee and helped write the standardized national general chemistry exams taken by many Montana Tech students.

He currently volunteers at the Science Mine, where he is a Board member and was CEO for the past seven years. He is also a current member of the Project Green Board (2010-), the Butte Local Development Corporation (2013- and current Vice President), and the Restore Our Creek Coalition (2016-).

Based on his accomplishments in teaching, research and service, the Chemistry and Geochemistry Department of Montana Tech is pleased to nominate Professor Doug Coe as Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Geochemistry at Montana Tech together with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto appertaining.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments