

March 7-8, 2019

ITEM 182-1501-R0319

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering on Dr. William “Bill” Gleason - Montana Technological University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor William “Bill” Gleason from the faculty of Montana Technological University (Montana Tech), the faculty wish to express their appreciation for his 15 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, Montana Tech, the Butte Community, and the State of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

William Gleason was born and raised in Butte, Montana. He prefers to simply be called “Bill”, even by the students. Bill earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Metallurgical Engineering from Montana Tech in 1986 and 1989, respectively. Afterwards, he promptly went to work in industry. He worked for Kennametal in Fallon, NV as a Metallurgical Engineer until 1991 where he managed thermal spray powder and welding rod production as well as direct comminution and dust recovery circuits. His broad education also allowed him to be the Personal Computer (PC) Coordinator for managing personal computers, software and training during the time that PC’s were hitting the public domain. In 1991, Mr. Gleason started working for Rhone-Poulenc in Silver Bow, Montana as a Project Manager. While there, his duties included analyzing the plant to suggest capital projects, justifying necessity and cost expenditures, and then bid and manage projects with crews ranging from two to seventy personnel. When they halted operations in 1995, Bill became Process/Project Engineer and Network Manager for KB Alloys in Malaga, WA. In these capacities, he analyzed plant data, supervised experimental procedures, suggested improvements based on cost/benefit analysis, and managed small scale capital projects. He also upgraded, troubleshoot and managed computer and telecommunication networks, supervised a staff computer training program, and constructed and managed an ISO 9000 compliant laboratory database. He worked there until 1999 but, during this time, saw his first action on the educational side; in this regard, he worked as a Part-time Instructor for Wenatchee Valley College teaching Construction Law and Construction Estimating.

Because Bill thoroughly enjoyed that teaching experience, he started pursuing other academic positions. He landed his first fulltime position at The University of Montana as an Associate Professor of Welding Technology where he taught Metallurgy, Steel Fabrication, Industrial Codes, Management and Supervision, Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Flux Core Arc Welding, and Occupational Safety. In 2006, Bill became Visiting Professor in Mechanical Engineering at Montana Tech where he taught Strengths of Materials Laboratory, Fluids Laboratory, and Introduction to Engineering. A year later, he became an Associate Professor and Newmont Mining Lab Director in Metallurgical & Materials Engineering. Bill has been the “go-to” guy in the Department by always making himself available to pick up courses that others just could not fit in their schedule. In this regard, he has taught Chemistry I, M&ME Workshop/Seminar, Senior Seminar, Intro to Mineral Processing, Mineral Processing Labs I and II, M&ME Safety and Health, Advanced Mineral Processing, Materials Characterization (undergraduate and graduate), Casting and Solidification, Polymers (undergraduate and graduate), Ceramics, Composites, and Hazardous and Toxic Species Remediation. Simply put, Bill is a hero, having been there for the M&ME Department throughout and, in the process, always putting its students first. He is the consummate faculty member and will be missed.

During his eight years with The University of Montana (UM), Bill started pursuing his PhD in the Interdisciplinary Studies under the direction of Dr. Ed Rosenberg and with co-advising from Dr. Courtney Young at Montana Tech. Dr. Gleason completed his PhD in Chemistry/Metallurgical Engineering in 2007 just before he started teaching as an Associate Professor/Lab Director. Dr. Gleason investigated Silica Polyamine Composite (SPC) materials to treat process waters as well as clean contaminated waters for his dissertation. The work so impressed Dr. Rosenberg that he suggested to then UM President George Dennison that Montana Tech should have its own PhD Program. This was in approximately 2006 and served as the initiation of Montana Tech's first-ever PhD program. It would take Dr. Gleason, Dr. Young and Dr. Rosenberg, with the help of Dr. Jerry Downey, seven years for the MatSci PhD to be proposed as a collaboration with UM and MSU-Bozeman in 2013 to the MUS Board of Regents. Today, the MatSci PhD Program has seen research grow into a multimillion dollar effort at Montana Tech and the first three graduates obtained their doctorates in May 2018. Dr. Gleason is proud to have had a big hand in initiating the program and seeing the inaugural class through completion.

Throughout his career at Montana Tech, Bill has been an excellent teacher. His teaching style was a favorite among the students because it was unique. Students learned by application and were often challenged by purposefully saying things wrong and getting on their case when they did not correct him. Students had to come to class prepared. He has also been service-oriented having been on at least three committees at any given time with the Campus Access, General Education, and Safety Committees being his forte's throughout. He also served stints on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee and Library Committee as well as the Faculty Senate. Dr. Gleason was also active in research, not only taking care of his own students examining such topics as Hydrogen Fuel Cells, Rare Earth Element Leaching and Recovery, Indigenous Recycling, and Biomaterials Synthesis for Water Remediation. He has published and presented 25 papers and worked on projects totaling nearly \$9M in funding.

Dr. Gleason loves chemistry and its applications in Metallurgical & Materials Engineering. His enthusiasm is second to none. He is a pleasure to talk to and always has a story, often funny, for the subject at hand. He has been invaluable across the board and shared generously with everyone throughout the years at Montana Tech.

With this recommendation goes sincere gratitude for over 12 years of invaluable teaching, service and research. The industrial experience that he brought into the lab and the classroom were premiere. To Dr. William "Bill" Gleason: congratulations on your retirement and best wishes for the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None