

September 11-12, 2019

ITEM 184-1004-R0919

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus on Alan Sillars, the University of Montana

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Alan Sillars from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express their appreciation for his 32 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Professor Alan Sillars received his Ph.D. in 1980 from the University of Wisconsin and taught at West Virginia University and Ohio State University before coming to the University of Montana in 1986. Professor Sillars is highly deserving of the rank of Professor Emeritus for his 32 years of distinguished service to the University of Montana.

Over the course of his career, Professor Sillars published over 60 articles and chapters. The quality of his work is reflected in the national awards he received, including the 1999 and 2005 Knowler Awards for the outstanding article published on interpersonal communication; the 2013 Brommel Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Family Communication, and the 2015 Knapp Award for a distinguished career of research in Interpersonal Communication. Importantly, all of these awards come from units within the National Communication Association, the largest professional association in Communication Studies.

Professor Sillars was a rigorous scholar whose work made a powerful impact both in his own field and in other disciplines. It is particularly noteworthy, then, that throughout his tenure at UM, he made equally significant contributions in the classroom (teaching five courses per year) and in service to his department, the university, and the discipline at large. For example, Professor Sillars served as Chair of the Communication Studies Department for ten years. During his tenure he guided the department in the hiring of several new faculty members; he also was instrumental in reviving the debate team, an organization that serves students across the university. Professor Sillars also did a large amount of service at the University level. He was President of Faculty Senate from 1993-1994; he chaired ASCRC from 1991-1992; and he has served on more than 20 university-wide committees. Finally, at the disciplinary level, Professor Sillars was a member of 12 editorial boards, he served as a guest reviewer for 33 additional journals, and he held the post of Editor in Chief of *Communication Monographs* from 2004 through 2007— one of the flagship journals of the field.

The Department of Communication Studies is proud to recommend Alan Sillars for the rank of Professor Emeritus for his long-term teaching, research and service contributions to the University of Montana.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments