

January 14, 2020

ITEM 186-2003-C0120

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Librarianship upon Professor Greg Notess, Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Greg Notess from the Library at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Professor Notess served as a library faculty member at MSU from 1990 until the fall of 2018. For more than a quarter of a century he provided outstanding instruction and research assistance to countless students and faculty members. He was at the vanguard of digital information being incorporated into library collections and services and was ahead of his time by embracing these new technologies. He became an expert at searching complex online indexes and databases—such as those provided through the Dialog search platform which was a fee-based search service that was only accessible to professionals. Unlike today's Web-based databases, which are easily accessible by end users, early digital index and database searches were mediated by a librarian. Professor Notess was a leader in connecting students and researchers to information that was essentially unfindable by them during the pre-Web era.

After the advent of the World Wide Web, Professor Notess was again among the first to recognize its potential for delivering information to end users. He was responsible for developing the first iteration of the Library's Web site (one of the very first at MSU). He went on to become perhaps the most accomplished searcher of online indexes and databases among the Library faculty, a distinction that he retains until this day. The loss of his expertise in this regard will be felt by many in the MSU community.

Professor Notess was a committed teacher who provided library instruction to innumerable undergraduate and graduate students. He was particularly active with students from the departments of chemistry and music and the College of Engineering. Again, he was a master of the complex and esoteric information resources germane to these disciplines. His library faculty colleagues would seek him out when confronted with challenging research questions in these areas. Professor Notess was at heart a reference librarian. Before they had Google to answer almost any question, students had to visit the library and typically a reference librarian was needed to guide them through the arcane arrangement of physical books, periodicals, and indexes. Professor Notess was, and continues to be, one of the best reference librarians I have worked alongside. He has an unparalleled knowledge of a wide range of information resources.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Professor Greg Notess the rank of Professor Emeritus of Librarianship at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None.