

November 19-20, 2020

**ITEM 191-1002-R1120**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Randy Bolton, University of Montana - Missoula**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Randy Bolton from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 43 years of service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Bolton was hired at the University of Montana in September of 1977, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1982, received tenure in 1983, and was promoted to Full Professor in 1989. He received Merit awards three times over his career and served as the Head of the Actor Training program in the Department of Drama/Dance (as it was then known) from 1977-1985. He was named Associate Chair in 1984, and later served as both Chair and Co-Chair for 20 years.

Dr. Bolton has been a vibrant and powerful force in the School of Theatre and Dance for over four decades, teaching both undergraduates and graduates in directing, acting, theatre history, playwriting, theatre management and personal/solo performance. His students were constantly challenged and encouraged to find their unique voices and to celebrate the arts at every opportunity. Dr. Bolton was instrumental in the growth of the theatre and dance program as Chair, developing new curriculum and training methods to respond to the industry. He was one of the founders and developers of the Creative Pulse, a graduate program that has been responsible for the advanced training of many of the K-12 teachers in the state of Montana and surrounding regions and served as its director and instructor for many years. Dr. Bolton was also a key player in the early development of Montana Repertory Theatre, overseeing much of their growth while Chair of the department as well as directing many productions that toured the western United States.

While Dr. Bolton has always been a dedicated teacher and passionate advocate for theatre and theatre education, he has also been an active artist, writer, director and resource. Dr. Bolton has directed many of the major productions at UM and would happily lend his skills and talents whenever and wherever requested. He is a published poet, performer and well-respected speaker who has dedicated his career towards the advancement of theatre and dance at UM and around our region.

The faculty and staff in the School of Theatre and Dance support the request to confer the title of Professor Emeritus upon Dr. Randy Bolton.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No attachments.