

March 11-12, 2021

ITEM 193-1004-R0321

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Kenton D. Swift, University of Montana – Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Kenton (Kent) D. Swift from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 11 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.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Swift earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and joined the faculty of Montana State University where he obtained the rank of Associate Professor and served as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. In 2001, He joined the faculty at Zayed University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where he taught for eight years obtaining the rank of Professor. In 2009, Professor Swift joined the Department of Accounting and Finance at the University of Montana where he rose to rank of Professor, and from 2017 -2020, he was awarded the Paul and Betty Haack Distinguished Faculty Fellow.

While at the University of Montana, Professor Swift taught required Tax Accounting courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as Managerial Accounting at the 200-level. He developed and taught a course on Sustainability Reporting which is a required course in the Sustainable Business Strategy Certificate. This is a popular course that attracts undergraduate and graduate students from across the campus. He was an outstanding teacher and his students regularly sought his consultation on career decisions and continue to seek his guidance after graduating from the University. He was recognized as an outstanding teacher by his colleagues, and earned outstanding teaching evaluations from his students. During his eleven years in the Accounting and Finance department, Professor Swift earned seven outstanding faculty awards for his teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In 2020 he received special recognition for his contribution to the educational experiences of honors students.

Professor Swift published 28 refereed articles during his academic career, twelve of which were published during his tenure with the Accounting and Finance department at the University of Montana. His research primarily focused on taxation and the impact of tax law changes on individuals and businesses. More recently, Dr Swift's research has focused on the impact of tax credits on the economics of alternative energy. His research was impactful, informed his teaching, is published in respected journals, and has been presented nationally and internationally. In 2012, Professor Swift's article "Is a Solar Energy System Right for Your Organization?" earned the Lybrand Gold medal for outstanding manuscript in the *Management Accounting Quarterly*. In 2019, he received the Lybrand Bronze medal for his manuscript "Accounting for Greenhouse Gas Emissions" in the *Management Accounting Quarterly*.

In addition to his outstanding teaching and research contributions, Professor Swift provided valuable service to the Accounting and Finance Department, the College of Business, the University, and the wider community. During his tenure, he chaired the College of Business Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. He served the University on the Graduate Council, and the Faculty Senate. Kent was passionate in his work assisting the University's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which enlists student volunteers to assist with income tax preparation for lower income community members. In 2020, the

program prepared nearly 600 tax returns for community members resulting in nearly \$700,000 in refunds. He served the profession and the State as a Member, and later as the Chair, of the Montana Society of CPA's Federal Tax Committee. In 2017, he was appointed to the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), which is associated with the Global Reporting Initiative and sets global standards for reporting on environmental, social, and economic performance by companies. This prestigious appointment was in recognition of Professor Swifts contributions to the field; he serves as the committee's only academic member.

The Department is very pleased to nominate Professor Swift for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments.