

May 26-27, 2021

ITEM 194-1008-R0521

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Phil Condon, University of Montana – Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Phil Condon from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 21 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

Professor Condon earned both his terminal MFA degree in Creative Writing and his MS in Environmental Studies at The University of Montana. After teaching in the UM English Dept as full-time Adjunct Instructor for 4 years, he joined the Environmental Studies Program as Assistant Professor in 2002. Condon rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor (4 Years) and then Professor (9 years), and overall has earned 3 Merit Awards. He served as Director of the EVST Program from 2013 to 2019.

At both graduate and undergraduate levels, Condon was a successful and popular teacher whose classes almost always filled and whose teaching evaluations were consistently excellent. For 15 years he taught 2 Gen-Ed undergrad courses and a graduate writing course that met Program area requirements, among other courses. As thesis committee chair for almost all the environmental writing focus EVST graduate students, he directed 90 MS theses/portfolios, and served on dozens more committees as 2nd reader in EVST, as well as out-of-department reader in Creative Writing, Philosophy, History, and Journalism.

Professor Condon published 3 books during his tenure in EVST; one was ranked in the top ten first novels of the year by Booklist from the American Library Association, and another received the \$5,000 Elixir Prize from Elixir Press in Denver CO in a national competition. He published essays and short stories in literary and university journals around the nation, and gave public readings of his work in Portland, Salem, Bend, Spokane, Moscow, Seattle, Denver, Ft. Collins, Laramie, Cheyenne, Billings, Dillon, and Kalispell, as well as frequent readings in Missoula and/or on UM campus.

Professor Condon's service to UM, Missoula, and Montana was extensive and important. He served on the Executive Board of the University Faculty Association (UFA) 2003-2020, serving as both President and Vice President for several years, and was Lead UFA Negotiator for 4 bargaining periods, 2011-19. He also served on the UM Sustainable Campus Committee from 2003-2009, chairing that committee for 4 years. Under his committee leadership, UM established both the first ASUM and UM Sustainability Coordinator Positions and produced the very first UM Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report, for which Condon served as faculty advisor. In Missoula, Condon served for 8 years on the Board of Directors of the Clark Fork Coalition, for 10 years as a trustee on the Missoula Area Central Labor Council, and for 8 years on the City of Missoula Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Board.

For his consistent service and leadership in the UFA, Condon received the 2016 Outstanding Montana Higher-Education Faculty Member Award from the statewide MEA-MFT union in Helena. For his pivotal work toward UM sustainability as well as his UFA service and excellence in teaching, Condon received UM's 2009 Robert T. Pantzer Presidential Humanitarian Award.

The EVST Program is pleased to nominate Professor Condon for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments