

September 15-16, 2021

ITEM 196-1013-R0921

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Geosciences on James Sears – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of James Sears from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 39 years of dedicated and valued 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. Sears earned his Ph.D. at Queen's University and joined the Geosciences Department at The University of Montana in 1982. Professor Sears rose to the rank of Associate Professor and then Professor.

Professor Sears was a successful and popular teacher, and he earned strong teaching evaluations. Across his career, he was the professor who most actively engaged in field teaching, devoting countless weekends and portions of summer to field education and thus instilling geologic knowledge, observational skills, a sense of place, and community. He taught across the curriculum and across a wide range of topics in geosciences, from his specialization in structural geology, to topics such as oceanography.

Professor Sears' research was wide-ranging and focused on topics important to Montana. His research involved the areas of structural geology, geotectonics, and field geology in Montana. He gave numerous public talks on these subjects and was involved in a number of grants dealing with research in these areas. His work has been published in several outlets including Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology publications and peer-reviewed geology journals, especially those published by the Geological Society of America (GSA Bulletin, Geology Magazine, GSA Today, Special Papers, Field Guides, and Abstracts with Programs). He was elected as a Fellow of the Geological Society of America in 2009.

Professor Sears played an important service role on campus in addition to his contributions in the areas of teaching and research. He was an advisor for the Geology Club and the Student Circus program, participated in the University Faculty Senate, serving on the Executive Council in many different capacities. His proudest accomplishment was receiving the UM Distinguished Scholar Award in 2008.

The Department is pleased to nominate Professor Sears for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None