

May 18-19, 2022

ITEM 200-1017-R0522

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Political Science on Professor Peter Koehn – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Peter Koehn from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 34 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

The Political Science Department at the University of Montana is pleased to recommend that Dr. Peter Koehn be recognized as Professor Emeritus. This recommendation is based on Dr. Koehn's half-century record of teaching, service, and scholarship at the University of Montana as well as his commitment to remaining an active scholar following retirement in May 2022. He has served as full professor at UM for the past 40 years.

On the teaching front, Dr. Koehn has developed and offered 62 unique teaching preparations dealing with critically important subject matter over the course of his career (see attached list) and offered a host of invited lectures and webinars. His teaching has informed and shaped the post-graduate contributions of countless undergraduate and graduate students in Montana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Nigeria, Namibia, China, and Hong Kong.

Dr. Koehn's service record at UM has been distinguished by graduate and undergraduate program development. On arrival, the Department charged him with designing and implementing a Master's Degree in Public Administration (MPA). The result was one of the first joint UM/MSU degrees in the MUS, which included an innovative Helena extension. Around the same time, he secured multiple institutional grants that positioned UM's Political Science Department at the forefront of education and training for the constitutionally mandated state-wide review of all local governments. Later, responding to a Provost new-program initiative, he led development of our Masters of Public Health degree program and its rural/global programmatic theme. At the undergraduate level, Dr. Koehn led establishment of UM minors in International Development Studies (IDS) and Global Public Health (GPH) and served as founding director of both programs. Thanks to his initiative, the Peace Corps designated UM as the first public university vetted to offer the Peace Corps Prep Certificate. Dr. Koehn also played an instrumental role in the initial development of the School of Forestry's specialization in international natural-resource management. Along with Professor Running and a few others, Dr. Koehn participated in creation of our minor in Climate Change Studies and developed the minor's "society" component. Recently, Dr. Koehn designed UM's Certificate in Migration Studies; he currently serves as its founding Director. As Department Chair, he led the recently concluded externally and internally evaluated (and positively assessed) program review. Dr. Koehn also served as President and Legislative Rep of the University Faculty Union.

As the inaugural Director of UM's Office of International Programs, Dr. Koehn established the office on a sustainable footing, created faculty-, staff-, and student-exchange programs, and competed successfully for national grants. He also held national-organization leadership positions in both the Association of International Educational Administrators (AIEA) and the Consortium for International Development (CID), and served as a UNICEF consultant in Eritrea, as Development Specialist in Residence with the Japan

International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and as invited consultant to the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. As its inaugural faculty fellow, he developed and initiated the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU)'s valued "international research and development project database." In 2011, the APLU Board recognized Dr. Koehn's national and international contributions by award of its prestigious Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award. His professional service on the editorial boards of respected journals and as frequent manuscript and grant-proposal reviewer also is noteworthy. Closer to home, his university-service contributions have been recognized by the George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment and the University of Montana's Distinguished Service to International Education Award.

Over the course of his impressive career, Dr. Koehn has achieved an outstanding record of scholarly contributions that is ongoing. His publications include 23 books and monographs, 67 articles in professional journals, and 53 chapters in edited books. His peer-reviewed and cutting-edge contributions are wide ranging and penetrating, including African politics and public policy, sustainable international and agricultural development, land reform, refugee studies, immigration law and policy, climate-change policy and challenges, transnationalism and transnational competence, global health, medical education, Indian Education for All, Montana local government, U.S.-China relations, China's foreign policy and business management, Hong Kong in transition, higher education, foreign aid and foreign policy, public administration and public service, citizenship education, intercultural negotiation, student politics, and evaluation studies. In the course of his scholarly work, Dr. Koehn has collaborated productively with other scholars in education, geography, economics, anthropology, medicine, sociology, communication studies, history, psychology, agricultural science, and, of course, political science. The impact of his work is considerable, as evidenced by the multitude of other scholars who have cited and built upon his work. The number of citations to his publications reported in the Social Science Citation Index, for instance, are too many to count. He remains one of very few UM social scientists recognized by the campus-wide Distinguished Scholar award. Among his most notable accomplishments are research grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Social Science Research Council, five Fulbright awards, selection as Montana's only New Century Scholar, and 13 UM merit awards.

Dr. Koehn will be focusing his efforts immediately following retirement on competing a book manuscript under contract to Routledge Press (series editor's comments attached).

The title of this co-authored work (forthcoming 2023) is Migrant Health and Resilience: Transnational Competence in Conflict and Climate Displacement Situations. If awarded, his emeritus status would be recorded next to his name as lead author.

ATTACHMENTS

None