

January 8, 2025

ITEM 216-2012-R0125**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering upon Dr. Otto R. Stein, Montana State University**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Otto Stein from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Stein began his employment at MSU as a tenure track assistant professor in August 1990. He was promoted to associate professor in 1996 and to full professor in 2006.

Dr. Stein is an extremely accomplished researcher, coauthoring over 100 technical publications, delivering over 70 presentations (many invited), co-authoring a state-of-the-art textbook and a practical design manual on wetland treatment systems, and participating on 40 funded research projects with a diverse collection of federal (e.g., NSF, USDA, USFWP, USGS) and state (MTDEQ, MDT) sponsors. Dr. Stein is recognized by the international constructed wetlands research community as a leader in this field. In 2017, He chaired the 7th Wetland Pollutant Dynamics and Control International Symposium, which by his invitation was held for the first time in the United States in Big Sky, Montana. His scholarship extends beyond campus. Much of his wetland work has involved significant technology transfer, applying cutting edge science to the construction and operation of full-scale treatment systems in Montana (including a pioneering system at Bridger Bowl).

Dr. Stein has also played a leadership role in keeping our academic programs responsive to the evolving needs of our students and society. Early in his career at MSU he was instrumental in developing the Department's bioresource option within our Civil Engineering undergraduate program. This option allowed students to focus on water and protection of the environment. Dr. Stein lead the initiative to transition the bioresource option to an independently-accredited degree program in environmental engineering. The first students were admitted in this program in 2019 and it now enrolls over 150 highly qualified and diverse students.

A summary for Dr. Stein's distinguished career would not be complete without recognizing his service as founding and long-term advisor of one of the University's most successful student chapters - Engineers Without Borders (EWB). MSU's EWB chapter has worked for over 15 years to bring safe drinking water to schools in Khwisero, Kenya. Professor Stein's abilities as a teacher and mentor allowed EWB to thrive and grow from a few engineering students into a truly interdisciplinary organization that includes dozens of students from across MSU. Hundreds of MSU students and thousands of Kenyans have been positively impacted by EWB and student chapter has become an outstanding example of student engagement. Professor Stein's significant contribution as student chapter advisor was recognized by MSU in 2011 when he received the University Excellence in Outreach Award.

Dr. Stein has served example of the remarkable outcomes that can be realized by the seamless integration of our traditional responsibilities of teaching, research and service. He is a scholar of international standing

and been recognized by the International Water Association for his contributions. He has led the development of new academic programs and won a NACOE teaching award for his classroom instruction.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents is pleased to confer the rank of Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering on Dr. Otto Stein and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None