

July 8, 2008

ITEM 140-1004-R0708

Professor Emeritus of Arts and Humanities: Richard E. Walton; The University of Montana-Missoula

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Richard E. Walton from The University of Montana-Missoula, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the University, the department of philosophy, 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 Richard E. Walton has occupied a special place in the Department of Philosophy. He joined the UM faculty in 1969, replacing UM's first philosopher, E.L. Marvin. Professor Walton went on to design the UM Honors Program (now the Davidson Honors College) and served as its first director. In 1979, he brought UM its first Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant. He is a co-founder of the UM-St. Patrick Hospital Institute of Medicine and Humanities, and he served for several years on its Board, as well as on St. Patrick Hospital's Ethics Committee. He served as Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate during the 1997-98 academic year and Chair in 1998-99. In 2002 he was elected Editor of The Montana Professor, a position that he held for four years.

Both in his teaching and in discussions of departmental policies, Professor Walton has been an unfailing advocate of classical virtues and principles. The quality of his teaching, ever stellar, was recognized by the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1989. He closed out his career with service as Chair of Philosophy, 2006-2008, during which time he both enlarged and strengthened the foundations of the Department in the hope that it would prosper as a community of devoted teachers, first-rate scholars, and amicable colleagues. Throughout his distinguished career, he continued to publish papers in the areas of ancient philosophy and ethics.

With this recommendation go sincere thanks for 39 years of invaluable service to the State of Montana and The University of Montana. Congratulations and best wishes for the future.