

August 2012

**ITEM 156-1002-C0812**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Economics on Kay Unger, The University of Montana**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Kay Unger from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 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 her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Kay Unger earned her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University and joined the Department of Economics at The University of Montana in 1978. Professor Unger rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor and then Professor. She served as chair of the Department of Economics from 2009 to 2011.

Professor Unger was a very successful and popular teacher. She was well-known as the Department's theoretician and was regularly consulted by students and faculty regarding their research. She served for many years as the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department and supervised many theses. She also taught a required graduate-level macroeconomics course for more than 25 years. She earned strong teaching evaluations from her students and she was evaluated consistently as an outstanding teacher by her colleagues.

Professor Unger's research was wide-ranging and focused on topics important to Montana. She was involved in research in the areas of health economics, gender economics, agriculture in Montana, and banking in Montana. She gave numerous public talks on these subjects and was involved in a number of grants dealing with research in these areas. Her work has been published in several outlets including economics journals such as the prestigious *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.

Professor Unger played an important service role on campus in addition to her contributions in the areas of teaching and research. She was heavily involved in the PACE program, served as the acting director of the Women and Gender Studies Program and participated in the University Faculty Association, serving on the Executive Board in many different capacities. Her proudest accomplishment was bringing child-care services to campus for faculty, a lasting project in which she played a vital role. In 2007, the YWCA honored her with its Salute to Excellence Award for her "successful campaign to promote equal pay for equal work and to bring more women onto the faculties of the physical sciences at UM."

The Department of Economics is pleased to nominate Professor Kay Unger for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments