

September 16-17, 2015

ITEM 168-1006-R0915

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of English on Jill Bergman –
University of Montana-Missoula**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Jill Bergman from the faculty of the Department of English, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 16 years of dedicated and valued service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Bergman earned her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois and joined the English Department at the University of Montana as an Assistant Professor in 1999. Professor Bergman became an Associate Professor in 2004, earned tenure in 2005, and attained the rank of Professor in 2011. From 2009-2013, she served as Department Chair.

Professor Bergman was a highly respected and popular teacher. Student evaluations of her courses were always positive. Students praised Professor Bergman as an energetic, engaging teacher who inspired them to think critically. In addition to serving on numerous masters' theses and supervising independent studies, Professor Bergman designed and taught courses on Feminist Literary Theory and Nineteenth Century Women Writers. Because she valued collaboration across disciplines, she often cross-listed her courses with Women's and Gender Studies and Liberal Studies.

Professor Bergman did extensive research and published widely on American literature, feminist theory, and women writers. A prolific writer of peer-reviewed articles, Professor Bergman authored two books: *The Motherless Child in the Novels of Pauline Hopkins* (Louisiana State University Press, 2012) and *A Woman's Place is Not in the Home: The Role of Place in the Life and Writing of Charlotte Perkins Gilman* (University of Alabama Press, forthcoming). She also co-authored (with Susan Bernardi of Carroll College) *Our Sisters' Keepers: Nineteenth-Century Benevolence Literature by American Women* (University of Alabama Press, 2005).

Throughout her career, Professor Bergman demonstrated to her commitment to service in many important ways. Before she became Chair of the English Department, she served as Assistant to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2003-2006) and as Associate Chair of the English Department (2008-2009). Among Professor Bergman's many service contributions, most outstanding was her leadership as chair of the "Gilman Goes West: The 5th International Conference on Charlotte Perkins Gilman," held at the University of Montana in 2011. Professor Bergman also served as Treasurer of the Pauline Hopkins Society.

The Department of English is pleased to nominate Professor Jill Bergman for the rank of Professor Emeritus.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments