

September 16-17, 2015

**ITEM 168-1009-R0915**

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

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Heather Bruce from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 15 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.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Bruce earned her Ph.D. at the University of Utah and joined the English Department at the University of Montana as an Assistant Professor in 2000. Professor Bruce became an Associate Professor in 2002, earned tenure in 2004, and attained the rank of Professor in 2008. During her years at the University of Montana, Professor Bruce wrote grants and directed the Montana Writing Project.

Professor Bruce was a passionate literacy educator, committed to teaching students the theories and pedagogies of rhetoric/composition and literary criticism. She taught methods courses in the English Teaching Program, chaired professional papers of masters' candidates, and supervised independent studies. For the Montana Writing Project, Professor Bruce designed and taught new graduate courses related to Indian Education for All and place-based education.

Professor Bruce published many peer-reviewed articles on eco-criticism, feminist pedagogy, peacebuilding, and social justice. She co-authored (with Anna Baldwin and Christa Umphrey) *Sherman Alexie in the Classroom: "This is not a silent movie. Our voices will save our lives."* (National Council of Teachers of English, 2008) and wrote *Literacies, Lies and Silences: Girls Writing Lives in the Classroom* (Peter Lang, 2003). Professor Bruce regularly presented at state and national conferences, including Montana Writing Project, National Writing Project, National Council of Teachers of English, and Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Professor Bruce served the University and profession in many significant ways. She was chair of the search committee for the new Director of Composition (twice), co-chair of the University Diversity Advisory Council, member on the University Writing Committee, and member of the Professional Education Unit Advisory Committee. From 2004-2008, she served on the College Section Steering Committee of the National Council of Teachers of English and was its Assistant Chair (2006-2008). Through her commitment to the Montana Writing Project, she has promoted best practices in the teaching of writing for pre K--20 students across the state.

The Department of English is pleased to nominate Professor Heather Bruce for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments