

September 16-17, 2015

**ITEM 168-2004-R0915**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering on Christopher H. Jenkins**

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**THAT**

Upon the May 2015 retirement of Dr. Christopher H. Jenkins from the faculty of Montana State University, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

The Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering requests emeritus status for Professor Christopher H. Jenkins. Dr. Jenkins retires May 16, 2015, culminating 10 remarkable years of service in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Montana State University. During that time, he served as Department Head, Professor and faculty member. Emeritus status is a highly appropriate way to recognize and to celebrate Dr. Jenkins' leadership and his ongoing work on behalf of Montana State University.

Dr. Jenkins received the B.S. in Physics from the Florida Institute of Technology, and the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Oregon State University. After a post-doctoral year, he joined the faculty at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. During his 13 years there, he achieved the rank of Professor and served as Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department. In 2005, he moved to Montana State University as Professor and Head of the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department, a position he held for nine years. While at MSU, Dr. Jenkins made significant contributions to teaching, research and service.

Dr. Jenkins was very active in teaching, even though as department head that was a small part of his appointment. His student course evaluations were consistently among the highest in the Department. He was active in evolving the curriculum, from establishing new undergraduate and graduate courses, to developing a systems approach to classroom pedagogy. Dr. Jenkins has authored or co-authored three engineering textbooks.

Dr. Jenkins was also very active in research. He spent several summers and a sabbatical year at Air Force and NASA labs as a Faculty Fellow. During that time he was involved with several aerospace programs, including solar sail development, membrane mirror flight experiment, and high-altitude balloon flights. Dr. Jenkins has authored or co-authored 12 book chapters, over 190 peer-reviewed journal and conference papers, and edited three technical volumes. He is a registered professional engineer (PE).

As Head of the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department, Dr. Jenkins led the Department through a time of unprecedented growth. For 9 years he provided leadership and vision making him a highly effective department head. Under his guidance, the program enrollments grew from 675 to over 1200 students. During that same time, he was able to expand the faculty and staff from 25 in 2005 to just over 40 today. During the four year period 2009 – 2013, this department was responsible for 20% of

MSU's total enrollment growth. The department currently has the largest number of academic majors of any at MSU. Of the current Mechanical and Industrial Engineering tenure or tenure track faculty members, Dr. Jenkins hired over half of them. In addition to managing growth, he has driven modernization and focus in areas such materials & structures, bioengineering, design & manufacturing, energy, service engineering, computational mechanics and human factors. He also served the College of Engineering (COE) in several capacities, including leading the development of the COE Strategic Plan.

Dr. Jenkins was very active in professional societies. He served on the Executive Board of Directors of the Society for Experimental Mechanics and is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Dr. Christopher Jenkins has served the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department, the College of Engineering, Montana State University and the State of Montana with honor and distinction.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

None