

September 13-14, 2017

ITEM 176-1001-R0917

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of the Mansfield Library on Sue Samson – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Sue Samson from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 26 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

Professor Sue Samson earned her M.A., the terminal degree for academic librarians, at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and joined the Maureen & Mike Mansfield Library at the University of Montana in 1991. Professor Samson rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor and then Professor within the shortest time allowed for each promotion. She received three merit awards in 1997, 2000, and 2009.

Professor Samson was the Library Instruction Coordinator and Humanities Librarian throughout her tenure at UM. She provided an outstanding leadership role in designing and developing an information literacy instruction program and curriculum that provided 525 curriculum-integrated classes to 9,066 students across the curriculum during FY2016. The success of this instruction program received recognition from librarians across the country. It included an innovative teach-the-teachers program in which she worked with teaching assistants to integrate information literacy into introductory writing and public speaking classes. Professor Samson worked collaboratively to obtain a sequence of three grants that resulted in the design and construction of the first electronic library classroom for the Mansfield Library that now has multiple classrooms and teaching spaces to meet the needs of this expanded program. As Humanities Librarian, Professor Samson provided her own instruction and consistently received outstanding evaluations from her students and departmental faculty with whom her curriculum-integrated classes were taught. She extended her teaching to include collaborative projects that included an annual Poetry-for-Lunch reading event for 18 consecutive years that integrated the launch of the *Oval*, a publication of undergraduate creative writing, and spotlighted the creative works of hundreds of students. She also received grants to create the Poetry Corner in the library, a room designed for quiet study and containing the collections of poetry books from the libraries of Montana poets and a group study room for student veterans designed for both quiet and groups study and with high quality electronics.

Professor Samson's research was outstanding and influential in the library profession, with focuses on a wide range of topics centered on the assessment of information literacy instruction and library outreach to student groups including student veterans and students with disabilities. Her research manuscripts were published widely in peer-reviewed publications, including the prestigious *College & Research Libraries*, and presented at regional and national conferences. In fact, her publications resulted in requests for conference presentations, and her presentations resulted in requests for manuscripts. Her research productivity far exceeded standards for academic librarians, including 41 peer-reviewed and professional papers, 38 scholarly presentations and posters, and 34 book reviews.

Professor Samson played an important service role both within the library and nationally in the profession. She received the Outstanding Faculty Mentoring Award in recognition of the importance that mentoring of new faculty plays in promoting the success of individual untenured faculty as well as developing inclusive

communities of scholars within the University. She was also awarded the Departmental Assessment Award in recognition of Information & Research Services Division as an academic department that has exhibited a history of excellence in assessing student learning, classroom teaching, and program effectiveness. She served as editor of the *Pacific Northwest Library Association Quarterly* and continues to serve on the editorial boards of three national professional journals, providing editorial and professional expertise to new librarians.

The Mansfield Library is very fortunate to have had Professor Samson on its faculty since 1991 and is pleased to nominate Professor Sue Samson for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments