

May 29-30, 2008

ITEM 139-1003-R0508

Titles of Dean Emeritus of the College of Arts & Sciences and Professor Emeritus of Arts and Humanities: Gerald Fetz, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of German, College of Arts and Sciences; UM-Missoula

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Gerald Fetz from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty and the Provost and the Office for Academic Affairs wish to express their appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to The University of Montana, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, and the State of Montana by recommending that the ranks of Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION:

Gerald Fetz earned a B.A., with honors, in German and History from Pacific Lutheran University in 1966. He received an M.A. in 1968 and a Ph.D. in 1973, both in Germanics, from the University of Oregon. During both his undergraduate and graduate years, he enriched his studies by attending the University of Heidelberg and the University of Munich in Germany, and the Université de Strasbourg in France. He returned to the University of Heidelberg in 1990 as a Fulbright Exchange Visiting Professor.

Professor Fetz came to The University of Montana in 1970 as an instructor of German for the then Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. By 1983 he had not only earned full professorship and tenure, but also served as chair in his department from 1977-1982. He was called upon to fill the same capacity again from 1996-1998. He also served on several occasions as the Acting Director for the Montana Committee for the Humanities. In 1998, then Provost Robert Kindrick invited Professor Fetz to fill the interim director position for the Davidson Honors College. A year later, he became full Dean, a position he held until 2003, when he was recruited to serve as the Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. He was made full Dean in 2004, where he served in an outstanding fashion until his retirement in 2008.

Professor Fetz has taught all levels of German from first year language courses to graduate seminars. In addition he has taught several courses in the Humanities, including the Introduction to Humanities sequence. His courses have encompassed a wide breadth and depth seldom achieved by scholars in his field. During his career he received seven merit awards, which were granted in part as recognition for his outstanding teaching and mentoring. In 1988 he received the Distinguished Teaching Award from The University of Montana.

Throughout his career Professor Fetz has also maintained an outstanding research agenda. He has published one book, some

25 scholarly articles (many in leading journals) on a wide variety of topics, has authored over 25 book reviews and has given over 45 formal presentations at national and international professional conferences and symposia. In addition, he has served on over 50 occasions as a panelist, chair, organizer or commentator in sessions at professional conferences. He has given several keynote addresses and lectures and numerous public talks and presentations.

Professor Fetz has a long list of distinguished service contributions. He chaired several University-wide search committees, has been a frequent evaluator for on-site accreditation visits for the Northwest Commission on Colleges, and chaired and/or was a member of several important university committees, including the Faculty Senate. He has been a frequent outside evaluator for several professional journals as well as for tenure and promotion cases at numerous universities. He participated in planning and executing several radio and television programs for the humanities, and served as Chair of the Montana Committee for the Humanities for two terms. He has organized a wide range of exhibits, symposia and lectures for the University and the community. He has been heavily involved in promoting the international mission of the University--he helped initiate, for example, a sister-city relationship between Missoula and a town in Germany, was instrumental in establishing several of UM's international partnerships, and was the UM Fulbright Advisor for many years. He has been a member of the executive boards of several national organizations, including the American Association of Teachers of German, the National Federation of State Humanities Councils, and the German Studies Association. Dr Fetz has also served as President of the Missoula Cultural Council and currently chairs the Institute for Medicine and Humanities. He received the German Friendship Award in 1998 from the Federal Republic of Germany.

As an academic administrator, Jerry Fetz has few parallels. He organized the 2000 Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accreditation self-study and site visit while still Dean of the Davidson Honors College and is currently serving as an advisor for the 2010 Northwest accreditation process. In 2002 he received the Academic Administrator Award in recognition of his outstanding performance as department chair and as Dean of the Davidson Honors College.

The Provost and the Office for Academic Affairs and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages & Literatures are honored to recommend Professor Gerald Fetz for Emeritus status. With this recommendation go sincere thanks for 38 years of invaluable service to the State of Montana, The University of Montana–Missoula, as well as his contributions to the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, the Davidson Honors College, and the College of Arts and Sciences. Congratulations and best wishes for the future.