

January 14, 2010

ITEM 146-2001-R0110 **Professor Emeritus and President Emeritus: Geoffrey Gamble; Montana State University**

THAT: Upon the occasion of the retirement of Geoffrey Gamble from the presidency of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to Montana State University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION: Dr. Gamble received his B.A. in English from Fresno State College in 1965, his M.A. in Linguistics (with Distinction) from California State University, Fresno in 1971 and his Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1975.

After serving a year as a post-doctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Institute, Dr. Gamble accepted a position at Washington State University in 1976 and began his 33 year career in higher education. His first love was teaching but he soon was tapped for various administrative positions at Washington State University where he served as Department Chair, Museum Director, Vice Provost, Interim Provost and Senior Vice Provost. In 1998, Dr. Gamble was named Provost and Senior Vice President at the University of Vermont. In 2000, Montana State University named him as its 11th President.

As President, Dr. Gamble was responsible for the oversight of the campuses of Montana State University, including Montana State University-Billings, Montana State University-Northern and Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology. President Gamble worked with all campuses to build a more cohesive unit and to work together to achieve shared goals.

Dr. Gamble revitalized the university's strategic planning process and created a system of shared governance that included staff, students and faculty in the governance of the university. His leadership style was one of inclusion and he encouraged transparency in university decision making and budgeting.

President Gamble arrived on campus in December 2000 and began building a culture that emphasized "student success." He inaugurated the annual Move-In Day event in Bozeman

and engaged the campus employees and the Bozeman community in welcoming students to campus each Fall by assisting with their move into dormitories. He recruited students for all of the campuses in his travels – formally through MSU for a Day, student orientation sessions and other university student events and informally at every restaurant, motel, gas station and any community event where he came across potential students and/or their parents. President Gamble's commitment to student success will not end with his retirement. He will return to the classroom to teach undergraduate linguistic courses and he and his wife, Patricia, have announced their intention to donate the bulk of their estate to Montana State University to support a Center for Student Success.

Dr. Gamble came to Montana State University with a long history of work with Native American tribes and Native American students. As a linguist, he studied Native American languages. Upon arriving at MSU, he appointed a Native American elder and professor, Dr. Henrietta Mann, as his special assistant and he and Mann created the Council of Elders – a group of Indian leaders that helped guide and advise the university regarding Native American and university issues. During Dr. Gamble's tenure, the number of Native American students rose from 211 in 2000 to 377 in 2009.

During President Gamble's tenure, he guided the university to new heights in research funding and programs. The success of MSU faculty in obtaining funding for the research program improved and in 2006, Montana State University expended more than \$100,000,000 in research funding for the first time in its history. In 2006, Montana State University joined only 96 institutions across the country to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a top-tier research institution.

For these and his other numerous contributions to Montana State University, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Geoffrey Gamble the rank of Professor Emeritus and President Emeritus of Montana State University and thanks him for his dedicated service to Montana State University.