

November 17-18, 2011

ITEM 153-1004-R1111

Professor Emeritus of Health and Human Performance and Education: Sharon Dinkel Uhlig; The University of Montana–Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Sharon Dinkel Uhlig from The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its deep appreciation for her years of devoted and valued service to the Department of Health and Human Performance, the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, the University, and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Professor Sharon Dinkel Uhlig received her master's degree from South Dakota State University in 1973 and her doctoral degree from the University of Utah in 1982. Dr. Uhlig began her career at The University of Montana in 1973 as an Instructor and was promoted to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor in 1982, 1986, and 1991 respectively.

Dr. Uhlig has been associated with The University of Montana for nearly four decades. She joined the UM staff in 1973 as a gymnastics coach and instructor in Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER). Though she continued as Head Gymnastics Coach until 1979, her responsibilities changed when she accepted the Acting Director of Women's Intercollegiate Sport (WIS) in 1976, followed by permanent appointment to Associate Director of WIS in 1978. She continued her athletic administrative, coaching, and teaching duties in HPER until 1979 when she applied for and received a leave of absence to pursue doctoral studies at the University of Utah. Dr. Uhlig completed her doctoral program and returned to The University of Montana as an Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education with a special interest in nutrition in 1982.

During the past 37 years, Dr. Uhlig has distinguished herself as the consummate faculty member. In addition to being an exemplary teacher and advisor, Dr. Uhlig's service performance has been abundant and meritorious. She is a long-time member, past board member, and Past President of the Montana Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as well as a long time member and past officer of the Western College Physical Education Society. Dr. Uhlig's devotion to serving others is further evidenced by her election as Chair of the Health and Physical Education Department in 1990. She served in that capacity honorably and faithfully for the next eight years while guiding the department through the most significant changes in the history of the field and UM program. During her tenure as Chair, Dr. Uhlig facilitated the arduous conversion from quarters to semesters as well as provided the necessary leadership to transform the program into one of the premium academic units in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The latter required a complete overhaul of mission and objectives, the introduction of new specialty options, significant curricula construction, new course development, refurbishing of existing coursework, changing the department's name to Health and Human Performance, and relentless advocacy. Dr. Uhlig will forever be remembered as the principal influence in propelling UM's Health and Human Performance Department into the twenty-first century.

Dr. Uhlig agreed to serve as the Associate Dean of the School of Education in 1998. Her commitment to the School of Education, now the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, consistent with the remainder of her professional career, has bordered on perfection. She has been the College's primary authority on policy, provided administrative leadership in supervising considerable academic growth and expansion, helped usher in a unit name change and the construction of a new building addition, and has been a an integral voice in support of the College's mission.

Accompanying this recommendation is a collective and profound thank you for 37 years of invaluable service to the State of Montana, the Health and Human Performance Department, the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, and The University of Montana–Missoula.