

September 19 – 20, 2012

**ITEM 156-2008-R0912**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Mathematics on Russell B. Walker;  
Montana State University-Bozeman**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Russell B. Walker from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Russell Walker received his A.B. in Mathematics and Physics in 1972, his M.A. in Mathematics in 1974, and his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1977 at the University of California – Berkeley. After positions at Idaho State University, the University of Colorado, and the University of Missouri, he joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana State University in the summer of 1981. He was promoted to Professor of Mathematics in 1991 and has been on the faculty at MSU for 31 years.

Dr. Walker has been involved in the mathematics program at both the undergraduate and graduate levels during his career. He was the first member of what is now an internationally known research group at MSU in dynamical systems. He directed two Ph.D. students and served on dozens of M.S. committees.

During 1988-1990 Dr. Walker served as the Geometric Analysis Program Director in the Division of Mathematical Sciences at the National Science Foundation. Beginning in 1993, he was a Co-PI on a five-year NSF - EPSCoR grant for the Montana Group for Nonlinear Science. Later during 1998-2001, he was a Co-PI on a four-year National Science Foundation institution-wide reform grant at MSU that funded mentoring activities for new faculty and graduate students, cross-campus evaluation of teaching reforms, and assessment activities.

Dr. Walker served as Assistant and later Associate Dean of the College of Letters and Science (CLS) from 1995-2005. During that time, he served as the CLS Liaison to the College of Graduate Studies and as a senior advisor to the Hewlett Foundation-supported general education reform project. Since 2008 he has been the MSU Unit Coordinator for the MSU Transfer Initiative where he devoted extensive time to the implementation of the Common Course Numbering system for the entire Montana University System.

Dr. Walker's teaching excellence was recognized in 2009 when he received an MSU Award for Excellence and in 2010 he was an Honorable Mention for the President's Excellence in Teaching Award.

In summary, Russell Walker has served Montana State University well by combining his knowledge of mathematics with his skills in research, teaching, and administration as a means to increase

understanding of mathematics and help MSU run more effectively. He continues to be actively involved in communicating this knowledge and remains a great asset to the university and the state of Montana.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Russell B. Walker the rank of Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments