November 20-21, 2014

ITEM 165-1503-R1114
Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Professional and Technical
Communication upon William B. Macgregor; Montana Tech of The University of Montana

THAT

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

EXPLANATION

Dr. William B. Macgregor's 30-year career at Montana Tech began in 1984 when Tech's Humanities and Social Sciences Department hired him away from a faculty position at the University of Hawaii to teach writing and literature courses. His circuitous preparation for his long tenure at Tech began with his BA in English from the University of Redlands, amidst the crowded Southern California environment where he grew up. Following graduation, he spent two years in the Peace Corps in Palau, a district in what was then called the Trust Territory of the Pacific. After Peace Corps, he worked briefly for the USGS and US Forest Service in Northern Arizona and then entered a doctoral program in English at CU Boulder. At Boulder, from 1971-1980, he taught literature, writing, and film studies, and helped introduce computer-assisted learning technologies into the curriculum in the College of Arts and Sciences. His first academic posting after receiving the PhD from CU Boulder was as a faculty member at UC Santa Barbara, and two years later he was hired on at the University of Hawaii. While at Hawaii, in 1983, he returned briefly to Palau to run a series of teacher-training workshops.

Since 1984, Dr. Macgregor's career at Tech was marked by his contributions to faculty support-systems, including establishment of a variety of celebratory customs—TGIFs & Faculty Achievement Awards (conceived with Professors Zucker & Goebel), Instructional Improvement Committee-funded efforts, and most recently his service as the faculty union's Steward. Starting in 1986, he consulted with Shipley Associates, offering training workshops to Fortune 500 and State and Federal Government entities across the country. In 1997 he responded to an invitation by the founders of what was to become Western Governors University, and for the next fifteen years served as an active member of the core faculty council of that new institution, which has gone on to serve as a national model of new ways in which the business of higher education can be done more efficiently and effectively.

Following a Sabbatical Leave at the Colorado School of Mines in 1995, Bill adopted a community-engaged Service Learning approach (modeled on CSM's EPICS curriculum) for most of his courses at Tech, and on two separate occasions over the next decade, was named Senior Faculty Fellow among the state's Campus Compact Service Learning Faculty. He served on the Board of Directors, and in 2002 became the President of the main national faculty service learning organization--originally known as The Invisible College, and later as Educators for Community Engagement. In 2007 he took an extended leave of absence from Tech to lead a legislatively-funded (and mandated) initiative at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) designed to make transfer of credits more transparent and dependable for students among all units of the Montana University System. After five years with OCHE as Director of Transferability Initiatives for the State of Montana, the system he designed was up and running, and so he returned to finish out his

career teaching in the Professional & Technical Communication Department, which he had helped establish in 1996.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon William B. Macgregor the rank of Professor Emeritus of Professional and Technical Communication at Montana Tech together with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto appertaining.

ATTACHMENTS

None.