

September 17-18, 2014

**ITEM 164-1004-R0914**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences on James Gannon, University of Montana.**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of James Gannon from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its deep appreciation for his 22 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the state of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Gannon earned his doctorate in 1981 from the University of Houston in Microbiology and spent the next eleven years moving among academic and industry positions before joining the Division of Biological Sciences as an Associate Professor in 1992. He was promoted to Professor in 2000. He served as the Associate Dean of the Division for a year and also in a diverse set of roles at every administrative level, including Faculty Senate, three years on ECOS, and several leadership positions on committees such as ASCRC and Graduate Council. During his tenure at UM, Dr. Gannon provided crucial expertise and training in industrial and applied microbiology. With dozens of research publications and millions of dollars in externally-funded grants, Dr. Gannon served as an excellent role model and mentor for aspiring microbiology students, whether undergraduate or graduate. Jim has earned a reputation as a rigorous instructor with a no-compromise grading scale, and his students have come to appreciate the depth and quality of experience he imparted to them in the diverse courses he has taught at UM.

Dr. Gannon was also a leader in research commercialization, applying for and receiving three U.S. patents during his years at UM. Among many other projects, he has researched how microbes affect a variety of industries, the use of microbes to clean up polluted waterways, and the natural assemblages of microbes in two pristine river systems, the Okavango Delta in Botswana, and the Nyack Floodplain of the North Fork of the Flathead River. In the latter study, Jim and his colleagues made several discoveries, including the existence of several new species of bacteria and how bacterial communities deep in the groundwater layer are essential in the movement of nutrients.

Jim has been a world traveler, spending sabbaticals in Botswana and in Mauritius, where he collaborated with local scientists not only in research but in teaching and developing locally relevant course materials. In his retirement, Dr. Gannon will continue to pursue these international projects, while sharing his welcome perspectives and wealth of knowledge to the Microbiology program. Based on his outstanding record of achievement and contributions to the University of Montana, the faculty of the Division of Biological Sciences is pleased to nominate Professor Gannon for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No attachments