

March 5-6, 2014

ITEM 166-1505-R0315

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Liberal Studies upon Robert Ziegler – Montana Tech of the University of Montana

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Robert Ziegler from the faculty of Montana Tech, the Liberal Studies Department wishes to express its appreciation for his service to Montana Tech, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Robert Ziegler earned a BA in French Literature from Stanford University in 1969. Dr. Ziegler graduated in 1974 from Cornell University with a Ph.D. in French Literature. Dr. Ziegler began his career at Montana Tech in 1974 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1979 and Professor in 1987. When Bob joined the department he counted himself lucky to have worked with such esteemed colleagues as Jim Albertson, Bob Holdsworth, George Waring, and Bob Taylor, whose service is part of the institutional memory of Montana Tech.

During his 40-year career at Montana Tech, the eminent Dr. Ziegler was an inspiring and influential teacher, a respected and award-winning scholar, a popular and trusted academic advisor, and a friendly and insightful colleague. An important component of the influence Bob had on students was in demonstrating what constituted high level research in the humanities. That is, Dr. Ziegler was an expert at incorporating insights gained from his own research into the classroom. In addition, Bob described getting the Club Advisor award for his work with the Liberal Studies Club as one of most gratifying awards he received while at Montana Tech.

Dr. Ziegler is an esteemed scholar whose primary focus while at Montana Tech was the study of fin-de-siècle literature and authors. Dr. Ziegler has published six books on this subject: *Beauty Raises the Dead: Literature and Loss in the Fin de siècle* (2002), *The Mirror of Divinity: The World and Creation in J.-K. Huysmans* (2004), *The Nothing Machine: The Fiction of Octave Mirbeau* (2007), *Asymptote: An Approach to Decadent Fiction* (2009), *Satanism, Magic, and Mysticism in Fin-de-siècle France* (2012), *Octave Mirbeau's Fictions of the Transcendental* (expected 2015). In addition, he has published over 100 articles on fin-de-siècle French authors, including Octave Mirbeau, J.-K. Huysmans, Georges Rodenbach, Rachilde, Marcel Schwob, Jean Lorrain, Charles Bonnetain, Joséphin Péladan, Catulle Mendès. Among the journals in which these articles have appeared: *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*, *Orbis Litterarum*, *Romanic Review*, *Stanford French Review*, *CRIN*, *Neophilologus*, *MLN*, *Romance Quarterly*, *Studies in Short Fiction*, *French Forum*, *Australian Journal of French Studies*, *L'Esprit Créateur*. Dr. Ziegler is a current member of the Advisory Board for *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* and, in addition, was awarded the Montana Tech Distinguished Researcher Award in 2011.

For these and other contributions, the Liberal Studies Department of Montana Tech of the University of Montana is pleased to nominate Dr. Robert Ziegler for the rank of Professor Emeritus of Liberal Studies at Montana Tech together with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto appertaining.
