

May 21-22, 2015

**ITEM 167-2001-R0515**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Psychology upon Dr. Richard A. Block, Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Richard Block from the faculty of Montana State University, the faculty wishes to express its deep appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the state of Montana by requesting 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**

Professor Block earned his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Michigan in 1968, his M.A. from the University of Oregon in 1970, and his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in 1973. Dr. Block joined the Psychology department at Montana State University in 1974 and will serve in the Psychology department through May 2015. He plans to continue conducting research and service activities upon retirement.

Dr. Block has contributed significantly to the success of both the Psychology department and Montana State University. First, he served as department chair for two separate terms from 1986-1993 and from 2005-2009. During those years, he was instrumental in serving many students, in hiring many tenure-track and adjunct professors, and in shaping the department into what it has become. Second, as a faculty member he contributed to student learning through teaching courses ranging from specific content areas such as Memory and Cognition, Consciousness, and the Psychology of Time to more general departmental service courses such as Introductory Psychology, Applied Critical Thinking, Research Design & Analysis, and Senior Thesis Capstone. Dr. Block also engaged students by directly supervising them in his Time and Memory Lab and teaching them to conduct research. His balanced service to students, department, and university is evident in his having received a university award for teaching in 1986.

Dr. Block has published extensively, with over 80 top-quality scientific publications. He edited a book, *Cognitive Models of Psychological Time*, and wrote the lead chapter. His *h*-index (a measure of importance of citations to research work) is 25-37 (varying from searches in Web of Science and Google Scholar). Dr. Block received a first-round NSF EPSCoR (MONTS) grant. Later, he received a U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) grant, which led to his many publications with Dr. Dan Zakay, among other colleagues. These long-standing collaborations continue to the present. He has personally presented research talks in Germany, England, Italy, Israel, France, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands. These invited presentations were mostly funded by European (external) grants. From 2010-2014, he was one of only a few non-Europeans funded by a € 12 million COST grant from the EU.

Particularly noteworthy is his work on the psychology of time (temporal information processing), which has been instrumental in changing the way the entire field of cognitive psychology regards temporal processing. Dr. Block's work has identified the attentional and memory processes underlying temporal processing and significant methodological advances in how to study psychological time. His work has had an enormous impact, both nationally and especially internationally. For instance, in addition to many national and international presentations, in 2011 he was honored within the field of Psychology by his

being named a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science (APS), the premiere international organization of experimental psychologists, for his significant and lasting research contributions. He also received the 2012 Charles and Nora L. Wiley Faculty Award for Meritorious Research.

In addition to his teaching and research, which has brought worldwide recognition to MSU, Dr. Block has also excelled in service. His courses have been a cornerstone in our department and are vital to our students' understanding of psychology. His service includes not only his two terms as department chair, but also having served on Faculty Senate, University Core subcommittees, and the Dean's Advisory Council. Upon invitation, he also presented a recent talk in service to the Bozeman Sunrise Rotary, a talk and live Webcast to nurses around Montana, and hosted a table at Distinctive Dialogues.

The Psychology department is unanimous in its recognition that Professor Block be granted Emeritus status, which is duly warranted given his long record of distinguished service to MSU, the State of Montana, many students, and the international community.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

No attachments