

September 16-17, 2015

ITEM 168-1012-R0915

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Linda Gillison – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Linda Gillison from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 22 years of dedicated and valued service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Gillison earned her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota and, after successful service at other respected universities, joined the faculty at the University of Montana in 1992. She is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome where she held the Rome Prize in Classics in 1981. Professor Gillison was promoted to Professor in 2002. She served as chair of the Department from 2002-2006 and 2009-2012.

Professor Gillison was a successful and respected teacher. She taught courses in Greek and Latin language at all levels, Greek and Latin literature, and Classical Civilization. Her teaching responsibilities often reflected her research specialties, including Greco-Roman historiography and Roman rhetoric, but she taught broadly across the curriculum. Her largest and most constant teaching responsibility was for Classical Mythology, a high-enrollment General Education course in which she energetically promoted student engagement by assignment of visual art projects and electronic writing assignments each semester. In addition, she taught courses for the Davidson Honors College, including an Introduction to Honors section and an Honors Seminar in Classical Mythology. She created the Women in Antiquity course which has become a central offering in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. She participated actively in the plenary lecture series of the Introduction to Humanities program and taught in the program for several semesters.

Many generations of UM students have not only benefited from Professor Gillison's expert teaching but also from her skilled advising. Because of her dedication to improving students' experiences at the University, the National Academic Advising Association awarded her in 2002 a certificate of Merit in recognition of her excellence in academic advising.

On the border between teaching and service is her function as Director of the University's Italy Study Abroad Program from 1996 through 2011. (She and her colleague James Scott created the program in 1996.) During that period, she oversaw the University's biennial program in Italy on both the semester-long and winter session formats. The program gave students from all across the university the chance to visit the most important cities, sites, and museums of Italy with an expert and to understand the great cultural arch which is represented in that area from the ancient period through the contemporary.

Professor Gillison's research was wide-ranging. Within the Classics specifically, it focused on Greco-Roman historians and historiography, Roman rhetoric, and Roman social history. She also published on Honors pedagogy and co-edited a reader for use in the WRIT 101 curriculum. Her work has been published in national and international journals and in a celebratory collection of essays.

Professor Gillison was very active and valuable in service at all levels of the profession. Beyond the departmental level, where she was chairperson for two terms, she served on the Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee for several terms and as chair of that committee in 1998. She likewise served several terms on the Faculty Senate. For the past three years, she has been a member of the Executive Board of the University Faculty Association, serving most recently as Vice President of the Association. She was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi in 1968, is a member of the chapter of the University of Montana, and has served as Secretary and Vice-President of the chapter. This year, she has been a member of the Academic Alignment and Innovation Project committee charged by President Engstrom with full review of the academic portfolio of the university. Beyond the campus, she was a member of the Executive Committee of the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest and of the Test Development Committee for the Latin Advanced Placement exam. She served as President of that committee for the College Board for two years.

Professor Gillison's presence is also felt in the Missoula Community. For several years she has been an organizer and presenter for the Community lecture series. Because of her work, in 2012, she was awarded (with Dean Christopher Comer) the Tom Boone Town and Gown Award, for fostering deeper understanding between the University of Montana and Missoula.

The department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures is pleased to nominate Professor Linda W. Gillison for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments