

November 17-18, 2016

ITEM 173-2701-R1116

Authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Biology upon Dr. Stanley M. Wiatr

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Stan Wiatr from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, College of Arts and Sciences, the faculty extends its appreciation to Dr. Stan Wiatr for his 37 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences, to the University, and to 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.

EXPLANATION

Since joining the Biology faculty in 1979, Dr. Wiatr has made major contributions to his department, the University and to the community in teaching, service, scholarship, and other professional areas. He was awarded tenure in 1985, with promotion to Associate Professor. During his tenure at MSUB/EMC, Dr. Wiatr served the Department as an administrator, leader, researcher, consultant, teacher and advisor. Dr. Wiatr has served as Chair of the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences from spring 2004-2015.

Dr. Wiatr earned his Ph.D. in Botany in 1978 from the University of California, Davis; M.Sc. in Botany, in 1974 from University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada; and his B.A. in Biology, in 1972 from State University of New York, Oswego.

During his tenure at Montana State University Billings, Dr. Wiatr has taught a diversity of Biology and Botany courses, authored and co-authored numerous publications, presented his research at state, regional, and national conferences and obtained external grants from such prestigious funding agencies as the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy and Licor.

The diversity of Dr. Wiatr's scholarly achievements is illustrated by his research focus on the prospectus for the utilization of Leafy Spurge, Cattail and other unconventional crops as a source of liquid fuel and biomass, sugar beet fermentation and ethanol production and seasonal variation in benthic community structure of the Bighorn River. Keeping up with the decades of tradition in the sciences, he has consistently involved undergraduate students in his research and publications. Dr. Wiatr's service to the campus has also had a profound and lasting impact on Montana State University Billings and the Science Department. He effectively maintained a course of continued improvement in the sciences and has revitalized the offering of science labs through equipment purchases and updates. As department chair, Dr. Wiatr oversaw the revitalization of the research being carried out within the department. Under his guidance, faculty in the department brought in millions of dollars in grant funding and garnered the university's first patent. Robust assessment strategies were implemented in the biological sciences and based on the data returned from that assessment, significant changes were made to departmental programs.

Dr. Wiatr spearheaded the effort to bring a significant cutting edge technology into the science classrooms. For example, Dr. Wiatr established the first Scanning Electron Microscopy lab at MSU-Billings. Also, among the many updates that were made under his leadership that greatly improved the student experience at

MSUB were an NMR, HPLCs, GC-Mass Specs, a fluorescence microscopy suite and a real-time PCR machine. He served on numerous college and university committees in addition to acting as the Campus Radiation Safety Officer. He served the community with outreach efforts as a judge for the Billings Clinic Science Expo and with special presentations to local high school teachers.

The measure of Dr. Wiatr's long and rich career must include all he has done for countless students, with whom he has shared endless hours of guidance and encouragement; and for colleagues, whom he has mentored.

It is therefore the consensus of his colleagues in the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences that his many contributions as summarized above make Dr. Stanley Wiatr worthy of the designation of Professor Emeritus of Biology at Montana State University Billings.

The faculty of the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences is pleased to nominate Professor Dr. Stanley M. Wiatr for the rank of Professor Emeritus of Biology at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

None