

March 9-10, 2017

**ITEM 174-2004-R0317**

**Request authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Psychology upon Dr. Wesley C. Lynch**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Wesley Lynch from the faculty of Montana State University, the faculty wishes to express its deep appreciation for his 36 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**

Professor Lynch earned his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Hawaii in 1967, his M.A. from Hollins College in 1968, and his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in 1971. Dr. Lynch joined the Psychology department at Montana State University in 1980 and served in the Psychology department through December 2016 (36 years).

Dr. Lynch has contributed significantly to the success of both the Psychology department and Montana State University. First, he served as department chair from 1993-1998 and again stepped in as interim chair from 2004-2005. During those years, he was instrumental in serving students, in hiring 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 Learning, Behavior Modification, Physiological Psychology, and Food Motivation and Eating to more general departmental service courses such as Introductory Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, History and Systems in Psychology, and Senior Thesis Capstone. Dr. Lynch also engaged students by directly supervising them in his Weight Management 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 and an MSU certificate of faculty recognition in 1987 and 1998. Third, he served MSU and the community extensively as chair of faculty senate from 2008-2010 and vice chair from 2006-2008.

Dr. Lynch's research interests are in the psychology of motivated behavior, particularly eating, eating disorders, obesity, and the brain mechanisms of reinforcement. His work has received both internal and external funding totaling nearly \$2 million from agencies such as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Science Foundation, Proctor and Gamble, and the Montana Heart Association. Dr. Lynch also has over 40 scholarly publications and presented his research at conferences throughout the US and Canada.

In addition to his teaching and research, Dr. Lynch has also excelled in service. As department chair, he reactivated and refocused the Master of Science Program in Psychology, revised our Role and Scope document, obtained College of Letter & Sciences funding for major departmental space renovation, and helped improve the Introductory Public Speaking course through increased faculty and classroom funding. As chair of faculty senate, he developed an expedited tenure review policy for senior faculty and administrative hires, developed and implemented the online annual review procedure for MSU administrators, revised faculty promotion and tenure review policies, oversaw discussion and

implementation of a new distribution policy for grant facilities and administration (F&A) funds, successfully fought for increased funding of faculty sabbaticals, participated in the successful 10-year NWCCU Accreditation self-study and site visit, and participated in development of the MUS reinvention plan instituted by the board of regents in September 2010.

The Psychology department is unanimous in its recognition that Professor Lynch 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**

None