

November 16-17, 2017

**ITEM 177-1008-R1117**

**Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Social Work on Cynthia Garthwait – University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Cynthia Garthwait from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 29 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.

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**EXPLANATION**

Professor Garthwait earned her Master of Science in Social Work at the University of Wisconsin in 1974 and, after several years of professional practice in the social work field, joined the School of Social Work at the University of Montana in 1988. Professor Garthwait served first as a visiting instructor and was then hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in 1991. Professor Garthwait was promoted to Associate Professor in 1993, tenured in 1995, and promoted to Full Professor in 1999. She earned six merit awards over the course of her distinguished career in social work education.

Professor Garthwait held multiple administrative positions within the School of Social Work during her career. From 1992 to 2000 she was Director of Field Education. From 2000 to 2005 she directed the BSW program and served as Chair of the School of Social Work. During that time, she provided leadership in the establishment of a Master of Social Work program at UM, which was launched in 2002.

Professor Garthwait was highly respected for her contributions to teaching. Over the course of her career Professor Garthwait taught over 20 different courses in the BSW and MSW programs. She was responsible for developing SW 423 Addiction Studies, an interdisciplinary course for future practitioners in the field of addictions that drew more than 50 students each year. Professor Garthwait played a leadership role campus-wide in the development of service learning courses, and she used SW 423 as a model for the cutting-edge possibilities of service learning.

Professor Garthwait dedicated much of her professional career to the support and development of gerontology in social work education and practice in Montana and beyond. She led initiatives to create an interdisciplinary minor in gerontology at the University of Montana, developed core courses in social work and gerontology, and integrated knowledge of aging throughout the BSW and MSW curriculum. Professor Garthwait was instrumental in the founding of the Montana Geriatric Education Center, funded through the U.S. Health and Resources Services Administration, which provides continuing education for health and social service professionals, promotes interdisciplinary education in gerontology, and hosts annual conferences. She has been a member of the administrative board since the Center's inception in 2001. She served as co-chair of the University of Montana Institute for Gerontology Education since 2001.

In 2005, Professor Garthwait secured a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation to promote gerontology education and practice in the University of Montana School of Social Work. Through the grant, she helped expand practicum opportunities in gerontology and created a program for specialized training of MSW students as Hartford Fellows in gerontological social work. Building on the success of this program, Professor Garthwait developed a BSW Gerontology Fellows Program for social work students

specializing in aging, and she personally mentored each of the fellows.

Professor Garthwait has also made valuable contributions to scholarship on the practice of social work. She is the author of the very popular social work textbook *The Social Work Practicum: A guide and Workbook for Students* (2017) now in its 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Part of the book's success is based on Professor Garthwait's breadth and depth of practice knowledge that she brings to bear. Much of her practice knowledge has been honed in the field of gerontology, and she continues to be actively engaged as a professional social worker, providing consultation to providers of aging services throughout the state. Her lifelong dedication to the fields of gerontology and social work was recognized nationally in spring, 2017 when she received the Mit Joyner Association for Gerontology in Social Work Award for career achievement in gerontology education.

The School of Social Work is pleased to nominate Professor Garthwait for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No attachments