

September 12-13, 2018

ITEM 180-2001-R0918**Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering on Dr. Ted Lang, Montana State University**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Ted Lang from the Civil Engineering Department in the College of Engineering at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Ted Lang received BS and MS degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology, and his PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington. When Dr. Lang accepted an offer to join the CE Faculty at MSU in 1969 as an associate professor, the CE Department Head welcomed him with the comment, "We...look forward to a long, mutually beneficial association with you." These words turned out to be particularly prophetic, as Dr. Lang, promoted to Full Professor in 1975, retired in December 2018 after 48 years at MSU.

During his almost five decades at MSU, Dr. Lang has had a profound impact on the students and programs of the CE Department and the College of Engineering, with this impact extending to the state and region through the thousands of practitioners that had him as an instructor, and the many more that benefitted from programs and personnel he put in place as CE Department Head. Dr. Lang is an expert in engineering mechanics, which is the cornerstone of civil/mechanical engineering. Across the spectrum of the sophomore to graduate level classes he taught, students consistently commented on his depth of knowledge of the material, his clarity in its presentation, and his commitment to their success. His career covers the transformation of engineering from hand calculations by slide rule, to complex analyses by computer. His instruction stayed current with this transformation, ensuring MSU students were both well-grounded in theory and adept in its contemporary application.

Prior to coming to MSU, Dr. Lang put his engineering mechanics knowledge to use at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, working on missile/rocket research projects. At MSU, he turned his mechanics expertise to snow and ice, particularly focusing on avalanche research. Working with a few colleagues across campus, their collective efforts gained international prominence and provided the impetus to an enduring research thrust in snow and ice that continues to be a vital part of MSU's research portfolio today.

For 11 years, Dr. Lang served as CE Department Head. He came into this position at a critical time as a large fraction of the Department was reaching retirement age. Under his direction, many new faculty were hired over just a few years, who went on to be the Department's foundation for the next 20 years. While Department Head, Dr. Lang also worked with alumni to establish substantial endowments, the proceeds of which have, and will continue to, benefit the Department's students in perpetuity. He was also Head of Department when CE faculty incubated two research entities, the Center for Biofilm Engineering and the Western Transportation Institute, both of which have become highly successful research centers at MSU.

In summary, for these and other contributions, the Board of Regents is pleased to confer the rank of Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering on Dr. Lang in recognition of his 48 years of substantial and sustained contributions to the University, its students, and the engineering profession.

ATTACHMENTS

None