

June 30, 2020

ITEM 189-2001-C0620

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of English upon Dr. Phillip Gaines, Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Philip Gaines from the College of Letters and Science 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

Professor Gaines joined the Department in 1998 and soon thereafter became the Director of Composition for six years, developing curriculum, training GTAs, and overseeing the administration of the Department's primary writing courses. He was out of the Department for several years when he worked for Academic Affairs as the Director of University Studies, and soon after he returned to the English Department in 2010 he became Department Chair, serving for four years in that position. As Chair, he oversaw critical hires in the Department – including Professors Michelle Miley, Allison Wynhoff Olsen, and Kate Ryan – and helped sustain a steady enrollment and a strong curriculum. As an administrator, his service has been broad and important, and he was an excellent colleague and committed Department and University citizen. He also was a highly admired and organized teacher, especially of linguistics, courses which he taught with consistently high evaluations, both online and in person. He took his teaching very seriously and inspired several students into a love of linguistics and language studies.

As a scholar, Professor Gaines has steadily developed an international reputation in the field of Forensic Linguistics. He has published over 20 articles, book chapters, and reviews in his career, as well as a major book, *From Truth to Technique in Trial*, with Oxford University Press. His second manuscript has been approved and is under final revision for review at Oxford University Press. Over his career, his work in forensic linguistics has led him to take a more activist position, one reflected in the topic of his latest manuscript, which explores the linguistic structures of false confessions garnered during police interrogations. In an age when criminal justice reform is a central political and social issue in the United States, the linguistic manipulations and contortions that lead to such confessions – a kind of State violence on its own – are important evidence in support of structural and institutional change. Gaines' international reputation is clear from the quality of the journals and presses where he continues to publish and in his extensive service work within the field of forensic linguistics.

Professor Gaines has been a cherished Department colleague, a loyal Department and University citizen, a committed and hard-working administrator, an excellent teacher, and productive and engaged scholar. We miss his steady presence and good will in the Department, and he has clearly earned the rank of Emeritus Professor of English at Montana State University.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Phillip Gaines the rank of Professor Emeritus of English at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None