

March 15-16, 2023

ITEM 205-1010-R0323

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Division of Biological Sciences on Frederick (Erick) Greene; University of Montana

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Frederick (Erick) Greene from The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 32 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.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Greene earned his Ph.D. at Princeton University and served in both the Division of Biological Sciences and the Wildlife Biology Program since 1990. He served as the head of the Organismal Biology and Ecology Program for 4 years, and he served as the Associate Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences for 2 years.

Professor Greene taught important foundational classes, and most of these were large-enrollment lower-level core classes. He completely revised our Introductory Biology sequences (two of UM's largest undergraduate courses, with 400 and 200 students per term, respectively), incorporating new student-centered, active learning activities and embedding student peer learning assistants, utterly transforming these classes in ways that enhanced the student experience. He taught Ecology in innovative and impactful ways, leveraging the spectacular natural environments around us to full effect (e.g., trips to the National Bison Range to observe bighorn sheep rams head-butting in the rut). Professor Greene was a gifted teacher whose passion and dedication to student learning earned him every teaching award bestowed by The University of Montana: Most Inspirational Teacher Award [1996]; Distinguished Teacher Award [2000]; Teaching Across the Curriculum Award [2014]), as well as national teaching awards from the Mortar Board National Honor Society (2000) and the Golden Key International Honor Society (2014). Professor Greene took a special interest in mentoring undergraduate students as they developed their own research projects for their senior theses or Honors theses. More than 100 UM undergraduate researchers benefitted from Erick's kindness and patient guidance, most giving presentations on their work at local or national conferences and many going on to publish their findings and/or pursue academic careers in the biological sciences.

Professor Greene conducted research on a wide variety of topics important to Montana. He helped start The Montana Osprey Project, which uses ospreys to monitor the health of rivers and lakes. He and his research group have focused on the Upper Clark Fork River, and this research has been important in helping guide the cleanup of some of the most heavily contaminated areas of the Clark Fork River Superfund site. Professor Greene has worked closely with people in many communities, Tribes, schools and businesses, and the Clark Fork River is cleaner as a result. Professor Greene and his students have also done pioneering research on how animals communicate with each other about danger. These ground-breaking studies have opened new areas of research. Professor Greene and his students have published their research in some of the top scientific journals in the world, including *Science*, *Nature*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Based on his research and education on ospreys, Professor Greene was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Conservation Roundtable organization. Professor Greene also started the University of Montana Bird Ecology Lab, which is a vibrant research and education group focused on Montana birds and the environment. Over the years he helped bring in several million dollars to help fund these research projects.

Professor Greene provided important service to The University of Montana, as well as extensive and diverse service to local, state, and national organizations. He has served as an associate editor for several national scientific journals, served on National Science Foundation panels, is an advisor to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and helped start the Montana Natural History Center. Professor Greene engages people outside of the University with many public talks, field trips, and radio, TV, newspaper, and magazine stories. In 2014 he was awarded the Tom Boone Town and Gown Award, which recognizes the faculty member who demonstrates outstanding community service and enhances good relationships between the university system and the Montana community. Based on his osprey research and public education, Professor Greene collaborated with educators to create the Wings Over Water (WOW) curriculum. This is a year-long STEM curriculum for middle school grades; every summer Professor Greene hosts an intensive week-long workshop for some of the best teachers from all over the country. The WOW program received the Underwriter's Lab Innovative Education Award, recognizing it as one of the most innovative Science, Technology, Education and Math programs in the country. The book "Call of the Osprey" by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent uses Professor Greene's research and the Montana Osprey Project to engage middle school readers in the excitement and relevance of science. In 2016 it won the prestigious Best Science Book for Children Award and the National Science Teachers' Association book award. In addition to many departmental committees, Professor Greene, who is himself a pilot with 40 years' experience, helped start UM's Autonomous Aerial Systems office (i.e. drones) to help train the burgeoning drone community to be safe and legal pilots. Professor Greene has also been devoted to promoting educational opportunities and support for Native American students. He served on the advisory board of the Tribal Colleges and University Programs, was a faculty advisor to the UM chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and co-organized a UM conference on Educational Opportunities for Native Americans.

The Division of Biological Sciences is pleased to nominate Professor Greene for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None