

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-1007-R0523

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences on David Patterson; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of David Patterson from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 37 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 her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. David Patterson earned his PhD in statistics from the University of Iowa in 1984 and joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences in 1985. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1991 and Professor in 2000. He served as Chair of the department from 2005 to 2009. He retired in May 2022.

Professor Patterson was a popular and respected teacher who taught a wide variety of courses at all levels, from freshman to doctoral. He served on over 70 masters and doctoral graduate committees for students in other departments including biology, wildlife biology, forestry, geological sciences, sociology and psychology. He supervised both PhD and Master's students in the math department. He frequently collaborated on research projects with people in other fields, particularly economics and biology. He was the author/co-author of 25 refereed papers in economics, biology and statistics journals, and was the co-PI of over 2 million dollars of research grants and contracts, primarily from the National Park Service and the US Forest Service.

Professor Patterson became very involved in K-12 math education activities in the last half of his career. He started a summer middle school math camp in 2007 and was active in MATHCOUNTS, the national middle school mathematics enrichment and competition program. He taught MATHCOUNTS preparation classes on campus for local middle schoolers, co-coached three different local school teams over a period of several years and brought the annual western Montana chapter-level competition to the UM campus, where it has remained for the last 15 years and which he continues to co-organize. He also was part of a team that started Math Circles for Teachers in Montana in 2014.

In addition to serving as Department Chair for 4 years, Professor Patterson also served on many MUS and UM committees, including the MUS Common Course Numbering and Learning Outcomes Councils, and as Chair of the UM Enrollment Projection Committee for several years.

The Department of Mathematical Science is pleased to nominate Dr. David Patterson for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None