

May 17-18, 2023

**ITEM 206-1008-R0523**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Native American Studies on Kathryn W. Shanley; University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Kathryn W. Shanley from the faculty of The University of Montana, the Native American Studies faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her twenty-three 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.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Kathryn Shanley provided distinguished service to the University of Montana community with excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service as a faculty member from 1999 until her retirement in 2022. Her work had a distinctive impact at UM and beyond.

Dr. Shanley came to the University of Montana as the first chair of the Native American Studies Department in 1999. Before coming to UM, she gave a combined fourteen years of distinguished service at the University of Washington and Cornell University. At Cornell she received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Prior to Dr. Shanley assuming the chair position in 1999, UM's NAS had been a program within Anthropology.

Dr. Shanley has published over forty book chapters and essays in major books and journals in the field. Widely recognized in the field of Native American Studies, many of Dr. Shanley's essays have been republished over the past two decades, including the following widely anthologized chapters and essays: "Thoughts on Indian Feminism"; "The Devil's Domain: Leslie Marmon Silko's 'Storyteller'"; "Blood Ties and Blasphemy: American Indian Women and the Problem of History"; and "The Indian America Loves to Love and Read."

In addition to reviewing many manuscripts throughout the years, as a service to publishers and to organizations in contest competitions, Dr. Shanley served as co-editor of Yale's *Henry Roe Cloud* book series on American Indians and Modernity, and as editor for literature of *The American Indian Quarterly*. She also edited two major volumes of essays. The first was *Boundaries and Sovereignities: Native American Literature*. This compilation of key critical works on literature included her own piece, the last interview with renowned Montana Native American writer, James Welch. The second edited volume resulted from a four-year project with the University of Tromso Sami Studies Program: *Mapping Indigenous Presence – Native Montana and North Scandinavian Perspectives*, co-edited with Evjen Bjorg. Dr. Shanley edited a special edition of *Studies in American Literature* on the work of Montana Blackfeet/Gros Ventre writer James Welch, and a special issue of *Intertexts* on "Gender in Indigenous Studies." Dr. Shanley has served on the editorial boards of the University of Arizona Press, and has regularly reviewed book and article manuscripts for possible publication for more than a half dozen university presses.

As a senior scholar in the field of Native American and Indigenous studies, Dr. Shanley is frequently called upon to review the work of scholars from the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, and Sweden, for promotion or advancement to research chair positions. She has reviewed Native American and Indigenous Studies

Departments and Programs for their respective institutions, most recently including Indigenous Studies at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada.

Currently, Dr. Shanley recently published book chapters on the role of Native women in voting activism over the past century, particularly in Montana (Routledge Publishers), and a comparative study of African and Native American Montanan post-colonial literary and artistic postures, in relation to extractive industries in their homelands (Michigan State University Press). She continues to serve as a keynote speaker nationally and internationally, and will be delivering a lecture on Native literature in Spain in May, 2023.

While at the University of Montana, Dr. Shanley dedicated herself to teaching essential undergraduate courses for the core of the major in NAS, including: Oral and Written Traditions; American Indian Beliefs and Philosophy; Native American Literature; Gender Studies in NAS; American Indian Education; Native American Autobiography; and the Capstone Reading Seminar for NAS majors. Five years ago, Dr. Shanley created a UM-based course entitled, "Indigenous World View and Education," at the 400- and 500-level in collaboration with Indigenous scholars from global Indigenous Studies programs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, University of Arizona, University of Alaska at Anchorage and at Fairbanks, Diné Technical College, University of British Columbia, the World Indigenous University in Hawaii, and Pacific Lutheran University in Anchorage, Alaska. That course has become one of four required courses in UM's NAS Master's degree program designed by Dr. Shanley in 2022. Students have been lobbying for such a degree program for many years.

In her various university appointments, Dr. Shanley worked with dozens of graduate students, primarily in the field of Literature. At UM she has worked on graduate and dissertation committees in the fields of Native American and Indigenous Studies, Creative Writing, Education (both Ed Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction), Psychology, Sociology, and History.

Throughout her career, Dr. Shanley conducted numerous national workshops for teachers, including most recently a NEH Institute in Indigenous Literature at the UM, co-taught with Dr. Phyllis Ngai, in which thirty high school teachers from around the U.S. came to campus for four weeks of study. During the workshop, attendees visited Salish Kootenai College, met with the CSKT tribal council and toured their governmental offices. Dr. Shanley also taught workshops for college and university teachers at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Clark-Atlanta University (an Historically Black university) in Georgia, and Grinnell College in Ohio. She taught workshops at several tribal colleges on topics such as Native Women's Literature and the Trickster Figure in Oral Traditions. Throughout her time at UM, she collaborated on four Indian Education for All conferences on campus. She also brought visiting Native writers to meet with local high school students at Hellgate High School and Willard Alternative High School.

Dr. Shanley served as chair of NAS for eight years (1999-2007) and again for four years at the end of her career (2018-2022). In addition, she was appointed as Special Assistant to the Provost in 2009, a position in which she served until she retired at the end of AY 2022. She performed a wide-range of activities, including serving on the American Indian and Minority Achievement Council for the Board of Regents. Through that effort, an "Indian for All" employee training requirement for all MUS staff and faculty was developed. Dr. Shanley also served as co-advisor for the Native American Student Advisory Council for the Provost, through which the cultural leave policy was developed for the UM student conduct manual, and changes were made to the ways Financial Aid processes housing vouchers.

In her capacity as chair, Dr. Shanley worked extensively with both the UM Foundation and the College of Arts and Sciences on funding projects. She coordinated the initial fundraising and planning for the Payne Family Native American Center. Features of the building reflect her vision in collaboration with tribal elders from across the state, most notably, the Rotunda Gathering Space, the Star Lab, and the Storytelling Circle. In addition, she started the Stott Visiting Native American Speakers Fund, which sponsored dozens of visiting Native American speakers over the past twenty years, including two visiting elders for residential stays: LaDonna Harris (Comanche), for a week, and Darrell Kipp (Blackfeet), for a semester. The vision for the Stott Speaker Series was to provide role models, for Native and non-Native students, of people who are engaged in scholarship and educational activism on behalf of Native people. She also served as advisor to KyiYo twice, and to the Native American Graduate Students Organization.

During her tenure at UM, Dr. Shanley's service included working on numerous standing committees, including the Institutional Review Board, the International Studies Committee, and the ASCRC. The public-facing responsibilities of the NAS chair involved a wide range of consulting and referrals in educational matters and cultural event-planning.

On the national and international level, Dr. Shanley held many positions, including President of the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL), President of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), board member for eight years on the American Indian Graduate Center (the foremost Native American scholarship organization in the U.S.), and Regional Liaison for the Ford Fellowship Program. Dr. Shanley served as conference organizer or co-organizer for the Ford Foundation Fellows, and served in mentor, conveyer, panelist, and chair positions dozens of times over the past fifteen years. Wordcraft Circle of Native American Writers bestowed on Dr. Shanley a national "Mentor of the Year" award in 2006.

For her scholarly work, her teaching, and her service to campus, to Indian Country, and to national and global organizations, Dr. Kathryn W. Shanley is highly deserving of recognition as an Emeritus Professor of Native American Studies.

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

None