

May 2026

**ITEM 224-1004-R0526**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Dean Emeritus of the College of Health on Dr. Reed Humphrey – University of Montana-Missoula**

---

**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Reed Humphrey from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 20 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Dean Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

---

**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Reed Humphrey demonstrated an exceptional and sustained record of stellar accomplishments in scholarly, teaching, clinical, and service duties over his four decades in academia. His leadership success at the University of Montana is noteworthy and clearly meets the highest standards for emeritus recognition.

Dr. Humphrey received his BS and PhD degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. He completed graduate degrees from Wake Forest University and Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia, where he also taught with joint appointments in Physiology and Physical Medicine. He maintained a clinical appointment with the Richmond VA heart failure and transplant team. Dr. Humphrey's prior tenure appointments included Virginia Tech, then Virginia Commonwealth University, and Idaho State, before joining the University of Montana as a Professor and Chair of the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science in 2006.

Dr. Humphrey's greatest accomplishment in his 8 years working in the School of Physical Therapy stems from his leadership acumen. His vision and dedication to leadership of the school played a large role in the strong academic reputation that the Physical Therapy program enjoys today. Perhaps his greatest leadership strength was his creativity and uncanny ability to develop new ideas to solve problems and explore opportunities. Four of Dr. Humphrey's key accomplishments are as follows:

He initiated and guided a new post-professional transitional DPT program at UM in conjunction with our business partner, Rehabilitation Essentials. The goal of this program was to offer high-quality, affordable, remote-access programs for working clinicians. This online education program has produced thousands of graduates and generated substantial tuition revenue over the past 20 years.

Dr. Humphrey initiated and formed the Neural Injury Center (NIC) during this tenure as Chair of Physical Therapy. The NIC has received millions of dollars in research funding and hundreds of thousands in donor support to meet its mission to conduct novel research and deliver education to serve people with concussion and mild traumatic brain injuries, with a special focus on supporting student veterans and their families.

His work to update, renovate, and merge our physical therapy services laid the foundation for our current outpatient clinical model. When Dr. Humphrey arrived at UMPT, the department hosted two clinical entities operating independently in separate spaces. Dr. Humphrey worked with partners and generated the resources to merge the clinical services into one unified UMPT Clinic. This entity generates substantial billable services each year, trains dozens of students and residents from multiple professions, and consistently has a waitlist for patients to receive top-notch PT care.

He guided the introduction of an innovative redesign of the curriculum using “blocked” course delivery. This revamp of our class schedule and curriculum sequence emphasizes more intense, but shorter courses that are purposefully blended and integrated in concurrent part-time clinical education sessions at our in-house UMPT clinic. Physical therapy students experience a deeper focus that affords fewer distractions to apply their classroom knowledge in a real-time environment with actual patients. The UMPT program is one of several programs in the country to utilize this curricular format. The approach has real and lasting effects. The most recent graduating class shared that the blocked class times and clinically integrated curriculum model were top-ranked strengths of the DPT program, as they helped reduce their stress, enhance their learning, and improve their focus.

Dr. Humphrey’s scholarly contributions include extensive peer-reviewed publications and scientific presentations in cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, chronic heart failure, exercise physiology, and exercise and training for patients with ventricular assist devices. He has been recognized nationally and internationally as a leading expert in these respective fields with his publications printed in high-impact journals, authorship of numerous book chapters, and invited scientific presentations around the world, including keynote lectures, awards of excellence and distinguished service, and international congress addresses. His election as a Fellow and then Master Fellow of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR), as well as leadership roles such as President of the AACVPR and appointments to multiple scientific and professional committees, further demonstrate a career marked by exceptional achievement and national prominence in physical therapy and rehabilitation science.

His teaching efforts at the University of Montana mirrored his research passion as he spent considerable time instructing Doctor of Physical Therapy Students in cardiopulmonary physical therapy and applied exercise physiology. His student evaluations recognized Dr. Humphrey as a skilled and energetic orator who is clearly knowledgeable in his content area. He was known as a teacher who highly respected his students, stayed true to his word, and consistently provided timely and effective student communication. He had great success with mentoring graduate students in teaching, research, and clinical settings, including highly successful PhD-level trainees.

During his tenure as dean, the College of Health experienced growth in enrollment and research expenditures more than tripled. The college, which also houses 9 research centers, multiple campus clinics, and the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana grew from 3 academic units to 7. Dr. Humphrey established UM Health and Medicine to serve as a hub for healthcare initiatives at UM and across the region. This interdisciplinary collaboration expanded UM’s role in educating health professionals in Montana communities and prioritized interprofessional education for healthcare students.

Prior to his retirement, Dr. Humphrey laid the groundwork to launch a clinical Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program and the state’s first Physician Associate Program at a public university. His innovation and creative leadership will ensure that UM remains the center of Montana’s healthcare industry for years to come.

Dr. Humphrey’s academic and administrative service at the University of Montana has been transformational for the campus and all Montana communities. His efforts as Dean of the College of Health secured UM as the healthcare education and research engine of Montana. He served as Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs when the need was great and during the challenges of the worldwide COVID pandemic. Dr. Humphrey was an active and engaged leader who worked to align efforts across academic programs, clinical training, and research enterprises.

The College of Health is pleased to nominate Dr. Reed Humphrey for Emeritus Status.

---

**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments