

March 5-7, 2008

ITEM 138-2704-R0308

Authorization to Confer the Title of Administrator Emeritus upon Mr. Curt Kochner; Montana State University Billings

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Curt Kochner from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at Montana State University Billings, the students, faculty, and staff wish to express their deep appreciation for his years of dedicated and valued service to the University by recommending the rank of Administrator Emeritus upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION:

Curt Kochner earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Lakeland College in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1970, and continued on to earn his Master's degree in Student Personnel Work in Higher Education from Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho in 1974. His extensive work in student affairs included serving as a Residence Hall Director, Director of Housing, and Campus Center Director in Wisconsin, and Director of Student Activities in Illinois. Thus he brought expertise to his various Student Affairs roles at Montana State University Billings.

Curt came to Eastern Montana College in 1984 to serve as the Director of Student Union and Activities, where he was responsible for all operations of the Student Union, including the remodeling in 1985-86. In 1990 he was named the Director of Student Life and Housing of Montana State University Billings and was responsible for the operations and combined budgets of all of those offices, in addition to the Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct. In 1996, Curt also participated in the creation of the Advising Center to serve all new and transfer students at MSU Billings, and served as the center's first director. He organized and taught the AS 101-Survival Strategies class, designed to promote academic success of students, and served on the Chancellor's cabinet. Curt also provided leadership in the development of the Academic Support Center at MSU Billings in 2001, a center to provide services to help ensure student success. From 2002 until he retired in 2006, he served MSU Billings as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, continuing to mentor students to help them achieve academic success. He was an active member of various national student affairs organizations, and has contributed his knowledge through various professional presentations throughout the years. Curt's ultimate legacy portrays his commitment to student leadership development. Many students that Curt mentored became leaders in education, business, and the health profession. Curt developed the MSUB Student Leadership Retreat and taught many courses on leadership theory.

With this recommendation MSU Billings congratulates Curt Kochner on his retirement and thanks him for his 22 years of invaluable service to students, staff, and faculty. He has touched the lives of many students and has always focused on student success.