

January 14, 2010

ITEM 146-2002-R0110

Director Emeritus of the University Honors Program: Michael Miles; Montana State University-Bozeman

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Michael Miles from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION:

Michael Miles taught in the University Honors Program (UHP) from 1991-2009, and served as Assistant Director for several years before taking over as Director in 2005. Mike did an excellent job as UHP Director for four years by: rekindling faculty connections throughout the campus with MSU Honors; creating and teaching multi-disciplinary seminars with faculty; and recruiting new students to the honors program. He initiated a new outreach program to high schools throughout the state, recruiting excellent applicants for MSU scholarships.

Mike restructured the workshops for major scholarships and advanced many outstanding students who received Truman, Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Jack Kent Cooke, Goldwater, and Udall scholarships. In addition to bringing nationally recognized speakers to campus and implementing new retention initiatives such as study abroad scholarships for presidential scholars, he encouraged academically centered extra-curricular activities to encourage presidential scholars to connect better with each other.

Leading by example, Mike teamed up with paleontologist Jack Horner and physicist Neil Cornish to create and deliver an extraordinary research seminar for undergraduates entitled "Origins" which explores the quest for a unified theory that involves the fusion of Superstring theory and Particle Physics, proceeding from the Quantum through the "Big Bang." Scholars examine the scientific methodology that leads to the fundamental conclusions of Darwinian Evolution and the philosophical and spiritual implications associated with our changing perception of the universe and our place within it.

Mike embarked upon several creative initiatives for the future including: increasing the number of undergraduate research internships; the pursuit of endowment funds from private donors; advancing OCHE review of BOR policy per MUS Honors Scholarships; and greater involvement of senior faculty in the Honors Program.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Michael Miles the rank of Director Emeritus of the University Honors Program at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.