

ITEM 148-2002-R0710

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Horticulture upon Robert E. Gough; Montana State University-Bozeman

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Robert E. Gough from the faculty of 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

Dr. Gough received his B.S., and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Rhode Island (URI). After serving 11 years on the faculty at URI, he moved to Montana State University as an Associate Professor of Horticulture and Horticulture Extension Specialist in 1995. He was promoted to Professor in 1998 and served as Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Assistant Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station from 2005 until the time of his retirement. During his 15 years at MSU, Dr. Gough has made significant contributions to teaching, Extension, research and service.

Dr. Gough was very active in teaching, even though that was a minor part of his appointment. He was a student favorite with his classes on Vegetable Production and Fruit Production. He was also active in evolving the horticulture curriculum and mentoring young faculty in that program. He won numerous awards for his teaching abilities; he was named a Fellow by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) in 2000 and won the Award for Excellence from NACTA in 2002. He was also very active in his professional society, the American Society for Horticultural Science, in which he served on the Executive Board and Board of Directors. He was named a Fellow of ASHS in 2002.

However, Dr. Gough's primary appointment was as an Extension Specialist in Horticulture, and there he excelled. He published 13 books, including the "The Best Garden Plants for Montana" in 2005 with co-authors C. Moore-Gough and L. Peters. He also published 5 book chapters. He published 40 refereed research papers and approximately 300 Extension and popular press articles. He was a constant media presence, where he was popularly known as "Dr. Bob". He was a regular panel member for the Montana PBS show Montana Ag Live, wrote news columns for nearly 40 Montana newspapers and wrote and broadcast approximately 260 radio programs each year. He earned numerous awards for his Extension activities, including the Director's Award for Excellence from MSU Extension in 2001, the Montana State University Outstanding Extension Educator Award (2001) and the Excellence in Outreach Award from MSU in 2004.

As Associate Dean, Dr. Gough led the academic programs in the College of Agriculture. He was a tireless advocate for the College's teaching mission through his efforts with students and faculty. Dr. Gough created, organized, and taught a new course for freshmen in agricultural and related academic majors called Ag 101 as part of his comprehensive strategy for student recruitment and retention. Dr. Gough traveled to high schools throughout the State of Montana to recruit students to MSU and the College of Agriculture. He also served as the advisor to the Agriculture Student Council, worked extensively with Montana FFA, counseled students through academic hurdles and established two new advisory groups for the College's academic programs.

Dr. Robert Gough has served the College of Agriculture and Extension Service, MSU, and the State of Montana with innovation and distinction.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Robert E. Gough the rank of Professor Emeritus of Horticulture at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.