

March 4-5, 2010

ITEM 146-2001-R0310

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Art on Richard Helzer; Montana State University – Bozeman

THAT:

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Richard Helzer 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:

Richard Helzer received his BA from the University of Nebraska in Kearney, Nebraska in 1965 and his MFA with honors from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas in 1969. Embarking on his teaching career in the Topeka Public Schools in 1965, Director Helzer was employed as an art instructor until 1968. From 1969-1970 he served as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Kansas before he came to MSU and joined the faculty. He completed 38 years of outstanding service in a variety of roles including 20 years as the Director of the School of Art, two one-year appointments as Interim Assistant Dean and a one-year appointment as Acting Dean for the College of Arts & Architecture; providing a notable total of 28 years in Administration for the College. Director Helzer also served as a faculty member in the School of Art starting in 1971 as an Assistant Professor of Art; in 1975 he proceeded to an Associate Professor of Art, and in 1980 received the rank of Professor.

As a prominent metal smith, Helzer has had 15 solo exhibitions and over 50 group shows throughout the United States, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Norway, England, and Australia. His work has appeared in numerous publications and is in 25 permanent collections including the personal collection of Bill Gates.

Over the years at MSU, Director Helzer was awarded numerous grants and awards including several College of Arts & Architecture Research and Creativity Grants, a Creative Development Grant from MSU, Professional Development Leave Grant, Short-Term Creative Development Grant, and the MSU Alumni Chamber of Commerce Award for Teaching Excellence. Director Helzer

was also awarded Fellowships from the Western States Arts Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Director Helzer has lectured, provided workshops, and completed research around the United States as well as in Italy, Germany, Mexico, England, Scotland, and Ireland. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Emerson Center for Art & Culture, is a founding member of the Sweet Pea Festival of the Arts, and is a distinguished member of the Society of North American Goldsmiths. He has been nominated for the Board of Directors for the National College of Arts Administrators.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Richard Helzer the rank of Professor Emeritus of Art at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.