

ITEM 151-1501-R0511

Chancellor Emeritus Status – Dr. Frank Gilmore

THAT

After 13 years of distinguished service to the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Montana Tech and to higher education in the State of Montana, the Montana Board of Regents confers upon Montana Tech Chancellor Frank Gilmore the title of *Chancellor Emeritus*.

EXPLANATION

W. Franklin “Frank” Gilmore, was born in Bailey Mississippi. He grew up in Mississippi, then Columbus, Georgia for two years before moving to Birmingham, Alabama in 8th grade where he graduated from West End High School. From the age of 12, he worked and saved money for college. Frank was the first in his family to go to college and he received his BS in Chemistry from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1957. Frank then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where, in 1961 he graduated with a Ph. D. in Organic Chemistry.

Dr. Gilmore worked at Allied Chemical Company for six months, before being called to active duty for two years as a 1st Lieutenant in the Army Artillery. For the last 14 months of his service he was stationed at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research where he worked on anti-radiation drugs. Frank did a postdoctoral year at Florida State University with an emphasis on peptide synthesis. From 1964-1967 Frank was at the Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City, Missouri. His research included the study of insect pheromones. Just before leaving Kansas City, Frank completed his first semester of Law School at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

In the fall of 1967 Frank began a twenty-six year career in the School of Pharmacy/Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Frank was Chair of the department two times, from 1969-79 and then again from 1987-93. Along with teaching hundreds of undergraduates, Frank directed postdoctoral associates as well as Ph. D. and M.S. students. He was chosen Teacher of the Year by the students. The research part of his career gave him the chance to investigate some great ideas in organic and medicinal chemistry and in drug design. The concept of peptidomimetics (mimicking peptides with non-peptides which is the way that opiates work in the brain) came from the work of graduate students and postdoctoral associates working under his direction. This is now a major method used in drug design. Today this may not seem novel but they did this prior to the discovery that opiates mimic peptides and prior to the advent of computer modeling. Indeed the name peptidomimetics came from their work. His rich research career also resulted in discovery of the first optically active alpha amino phosphonic acids, the first peptides containing amino phosphonic acids and the first demonstration of antibacterial activity of amino phosphonic acid containing peptides.

Frank was Vice President of Academic Affairs, then the Executive Vice President of West Virginia Institute of Technology (now WVU Tech) from 1993-1998. During his tenure at the campus, there were major budget and institutional hurdles that he helped resolve. During the summer of 1994 Frank completed Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management.

Frank became the 10th Chief Executive Officer of the Montana Tech campus in July, 1998. One of the first issues that he had to deal with was a sizeable budget cut. His prudent fiscal management practices enabled

the campus to remain fiscally viable throughout his 13 year tenure on the campus. Frank was one of the first campus CEOs within the Montana University System to suggest to the Board of Regents that campuses should be allowed to create a reserve revolving account to allow flexibility in dealing with budgetary uncertainties.

Chancellor Gilmore was instrumental in working to ensure growth in all areas of the campus during his tenure at Montana Tech. The physical “footprint” of the campus grew by 57 acres with the ARCO land donation and two new buildings, Centennial Hall and the Natural Resources Building, were built on the Tech campus. While the funding for Centennial Hall was already in place when Frank arrived on campus, his persistence over the course of multiple legislative sessions resulted in the funding to construct the Natural Resources Building. In addition to the new building projects, remodeling/building improvement projects occurred (or are currently in progress) in the following campus buildings: Chemistry Biology, Mining/Geology, Health Sciences, HPER (two separate projects), ELC and the Student Union. Frank also played a major role in securing the funding for the Montana Tech Arch, which welcomes everyone to the Montana Tech campus.

The degree inventory of Montana Tech grew dramatically during the Gilmore years. A total of 36 new degree offerings, ranging from Certificate through Masters, were added and 4,801 degrees were awarded to students during Chancellor Gilmore’s time on the campus. Other areas saw strong growth during Frank’s 13 year career. These areas (and the corresponding percentage growth from 1998-2010) include; Overall Student Enrollment (28%), International Enrollment (276%), Graduate School Enrollment (50%), Foundation Endowment (158%), Contracts & Grants (90%) and Financial Aid (79%).

Frank has always served his local communities. Habitat for Humanity, American Heart Association, United Way, PTA, Chamber of Commerce, local repairman for a small church and Oxford school system committees are a few of his contributions. Frank has worked with national and international professional associations such as Sigma Xi, The International Research Society, serving as President of Sigma Xi International 2002-03; The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the Goldwater Scholarship Review Committee.

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