

March 1-2, 2012

ITEM 154-2701-R0312

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Art, Montana State University Billings:
Neil Jussila**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Neil Jussila from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty wishes to extend its appreciation for his 42 years of dedicated and valued service to the University, the Department of Art, and the State of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred on him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Neil Jussila earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Art in 1965 from Montana State University Bozeman, and earned his Master of Applied Arts degree in Painting in 1969 from Montana State University Bozeman. After the completion of his graduate studies, Neil was hired as an Instructor of Art at Montana State University Billings (then Eastern Montana College). In 1972, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Art; in 1976, he was promoted to Associate Professor of Art; and in 1982, he was promoted to Professor of Art. During his tenure at Montana State University Billings, Neil served the Department of Art as a teacher of painting, drawing, and two-dimensional design, as Advisor to the Northcutt Steele Gallery, as a member of the Department Rank and Tenure Committee, as an Advisor to student art majors, as a member of the Art Scholarship Selection Committee, as a Member of Department Search Committees and other ad hoc task forces, as a developer of department curricula, and through participation in many other activities within the department.

During his tenure at Montana State University Billings, Neil served the university on the University Rank and Tenure Committee, the General Education Committee, the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Council, the Honors Advisory Council, the College of Education Curriculum Council, as faculty advisor to the Veteran's Upward Bound Program, and through participation in many other campus activities.

Beyond the campus, Neil has served the profession of art through exhibition of his work in over 100 local, regional, and national venues, including solo and group shows, both juried and invitational; through numerous speaking engagements; through grants awarded by the National Endowment of the Humanities, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and the Montana Arts Council; and with artworks in seventeen collections at local, state and national locations.

Neil has served the community as an Advisory Board Member for Billings Town and Gown, and for Art Mobile of Montana; through speaking engagements at the Yellowstone Art Museum and other art venues; and by donating numerous artworks to campus, local and regional charitable art auctions throughout the years.

For these and numerous other contributions, the faculty of the Department of Art are pleased to nominate Professor Neil Jussila for the rank of Professor Emeritus of Art at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

None