

September 19 – 20, 2012

**ITEM 156-2006-R0912**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Humanities on Lynda Sexson; Montana State University-Bozeman**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Lynda Sexson from the faculty of Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

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**EXPLANATION**

Professor Sexson has had a long and distinguished career at Montana State University. She received her Ph.D. in Religion from Syracuse University in 1982. She was promoted to full professor as Montana State University's Professor of Humanities in 1993. She has been Visiting Professor at Pacifica Graduate Institute, and at the University of Texas at Dallas, as well as visiting scholar at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Sexson is the author of three books: *Ordinarily Sacred*, 1982; *Margaret of the Imperfections*, 1988; and *Hamlet's Planets: Parables*, 1996. Her work in myth and metaphor has also resulted in a dozen book chapters, ranging from work on Julian of Norwich to Isak Dinesen, from ideas of nature to American culture. One of her stories, "Turning," has been translated into Japanese, and in 2011 became a short film. She wrote and directed a film on early children's literature, *My Book and Heart Shall Never Part*, which premiered in 2008. With Michael Sexson, she co-edited five volumes of the journal *Corona*.

Her writing has been honored with the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award for excellence in fiction; The Writers Community Writer-in-Residence, YMCA National Writer's Voice; Fellowship in Literature, Montana Arts Council; and two Djerassi Foundation Artist-in-Residence awards.

Professor Sexson has created and taught courses across the Religious Studies curriculum. She was a founding member of the committee to develop the Women's Studies minor and directed MSU's summer sessions in 1983 (at which time she gave MSU its motto, "Mountains and Minds"), and was awarded the North American Association of Summer Sessions, Merit Award for Innovative Programming, and the Western Association of Summer Session Administrators Creative Programming Award.

Her teaching and research awards include the Provost's Award for Undergraduate Research/Creativity Mentoring, 2011; Professor of the Month, Mortar Board, 2011; the Alumni Association/Chamber of Commerce Award for Excellence, 2011, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2003, 2000; College of Letters and Science Outstanding Teaching Award, 2003; the President's Excellence in

Teaching Award, 2000; the Charles and Nora L. Wiley Faculty Award for Meritorious Research, 1996; Phi Kappa Phi Award for Distinguished Teaching, Anna Krueger Fridley Distinguished Teacher Award, 1993; the Betty Coffey Award, 1988; and two sabbatical awards, 2004, 1995.

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

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments