

September 18-19, 2013

ITEM 160-2703-R0913

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Montana State University Billings: Dr. Craig V. Wilson

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Craig Wilson from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty wishes to extend its appreciation for 33 years of dedicated and valued service to the University, the Department of Sociology, Political Science, Native American Studies and Environmental Studies, and the State of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred on Dr. Craig V. Wilson by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Craig Wilson earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Montana in 1971 and his master's degree in 1973. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from Washington State University in 1982. His areas of specialization included international relations, international law and organization, and U.S. foreign policy, comparative government and public policy. He also completed a supporting field in U.S. diplomatic history.

Dr. Wilson began his academic career as a visiting scholar at Stanford University's Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace in 1978. He came to Montana State University Billings (then Eastern Montana College) as an instructor in 1980 and was promoted to the ranked position of Assistant Professor when he earned his Ph.D. in 1982. Professor Wilson was promoted to Associate Professor in 1986 and to Professor in 1990. In addition, he served as chair of the Department of Sociology, Political Science, Native American Studies and Environmental Studies from 1995 until 2009.

Professor Wilson's academic contributions are many. Throughout his career he has published in numerous refereed journals and has presented dozens of professional papers at regional, national, and international conferences. In addition, he was selected in two separate years to participate in a Pew Charitable Trust funded national research project studying the impact of soft-money and issue advocacy on congressional campaigns. Dr. Wilson also worked on a number of grant funded research projects, including serving as the Principal Investigator on a Department of Justice "Project Safe Neighborhoods" grant in 2002-2003.

His research agenda informed his classroom teaching, as Professor Wilson taught across a broad range of subjects throughout his 33 years at MSUB. Most notably, Dr. Wilson has taught a public opinion and polling course that serves as the springboard for the annual MSUB poll. He has conducted the political poll for 25 years, with his students as the primary data collectors. This is an invaluable experience for students and the poll provides crucial information about the political climate in Montana and lends visibility and prestige to the university. As evidence to his commitment to this activity, Dr. Wilson has agreed to continue conducting the poll in his retirement.

He has served the university through his participation on numerous departmental and university committees. These include search committees, the College Rank and Tenure Committee, hosting visiting scholars and diplomats, campus presentations, and 14 years as department chair. His public service

activities are even more extensive, including myriad media presentations and volunteer activities in the community.

Dr. Wilson has made significant contributions to the students and faculty in the Department of Sociology, Political Science, Native American Studies and Environmental Studies, the College of Arts and Sciences and to the Montana community. Montana State University Billings wishes to honor Professor Wilson for his outstanding contributions to higher education and his discipline. We congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the very best for the future.

For these and numerous other contributions, the faculty of the Department of Sociology, Political Science, Native American Studies and Environmental Studies are pleased to nominate Professor Dr. Craig V. Wilson for the rank of Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments