

January 6, 2015

**ITEM 166-2003-R0115**

**Authorization to Confer the Title Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering on Richard S. Wolff; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Upon the retirement of Dr. Richard S. Wolff from the faculty of Montana State University, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

The faculty of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering unanimously requests emeritus status for Professor Richard S. Wolff. Dr. Wolff will retire in the fall of 2014, culminating 12 years of remarkable service as ECE Professor and inaugural holder of the endowed Gilhousen Telecommunications Chair at Montana State University. Emeritus status is a highly appropriate way to recognize and to celebrate Dr. Wolff's leadership and his ongoing work on behalf of Montana State University.

Dr. Wolff completed his undergraduate work in Engineering Physics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1966. He then successfully pursued graduate studies, receiving a Ph.D. in Physics from Columbia University in 1969. He was employed first as an assistant professor in the physics department at Columbia, and then in 1977 he joined the Radio Research Department at Bell Labs as a Member of the Technical Staff. He subsequently worked at Bell Labs in the Satellite Transmission Laboratory until 1983, when he became Director of Radio and Satellite Research with Bellcore (Bell Communications Research), which in 1998 became Telcordia Technologies. While at Bellcore/Telcordia Dr. Wolff pursued research in networks and communications, holding successive titles of Director, Executive Director, and Vice President. He skillfully led a diverse program that included systems level research in wireless, wireline and optical networks for terrestrial and earth-space applications.

In January, 2003, Dr. Wolff joined Montana State University as professor and the inaugural recipient of the fully-endowed Gilhousen Telecommunications Chair in the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department. He established an outstanding research and teaching program in telecommunications with emphasis on emerging wireless systems and technologies, particularly systems involving novel methods to facilitate communications in Montana and other rural and sparsely-populated areas of the country.

While at MSU Dr. Wolff received the Cox Family Award for Creative Scholarship and Teaching (2009), and he supervised the Ph.D. work of 3 students and M.S. degree work of 20 students. His dedication to teaching is also particularly notable for his involvement as a popular seminar leader for both the College of Letters and Science and the Honors College.

In addition, he served the MSU campus in a wide variety of ways including participation on information technology committees and task forces, the honorary degree committee, Core 2.0 committee, grievance representative, and the promotion and tenure committee.

Dr. Wolff is a Senior Member of the IEEE and an inducted member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi academic honor societies. We congratulate him on his elevation to emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments