

March 5-6, 2015

**ITEM 166-1025-R0315**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of the Department of Counselor Education in the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences on Rita Sommers-Flanagan, the University of Montana**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Rita Sommers-Flanagan from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 23 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Sommers-Flanagan earned her Ph.D. at the University of Montana in 1988 and joined the Department of Counselor Education (then Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling) at The University of Montana in 1990. Professor Sommers-Flanagan rose as quickly as possible to the ranks of Associate and Full Professor. She served as chair of the Department from 2009 to 2014.

Professor Sommers-Flanagan was a very successful and popular teacher. She was especially well-regarded for her teaching of Counseling Ethics. She was deeply involved throughout campus, serving as interim director of the Practical Ethics Center (for one year) and then as the Director of Women's and Gender Studies (for two years). She served on many graduate-level committees, both within her department and across campus. She earned strong teaching evaluations from her students and she was evaluated consistently as an outstanding teacher by her colleagues.

Professor Sommers-Flanagan's writing and research was extensive. She published over 40 professional journal articles and book chapters, as well as eight books. She published in the flagship journal of psychology (the American Psychologist) as well as the flagship journal in counseling (the Journal of Counseling and Development). Her productivity has improved the status and recognition of the University of Montana on the national level. Her coauthored textbook, Clinical Interviewing, is now in its 5th edition and is well-known as the top textbook in this area.

Professor Sommers-Flanagan played an important service role on campus in addition to her contributions in the areas of teaching and research. She was heavily involved in the Women's and Gender Studies Program, serving as Director for two years. She was also Interim Director of the Practical Ethics Center, member of the Faculty Senate, and member of the Executive Council of the Senate (ECOS). More recently she served on the Executive Board of the University Faculty Association and as the UFA Grievance Officer. Professor Sommers-Flanagan had immense influence in many different areas on campus at the University of Montana.

The Department is pleased to nominate Professor Rita Sommers-Flanagan for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments