September 16-17, 2015

ITEM 168-1011-R0915
Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Computer Science on Raymond Ford – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Raymond Ford from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 24 years of dedicated and valued service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Ford earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburg and joined the University of Montana Computer Science Department in 1990. Professor Ford rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor and then Professor. His arrival signaled a turning point in the evolution of the department. His ability to procure external funding fostered the department's acceptance of an expectation for excellence in research by its faculty members, and his collaborations with faculty members across campus opened the door to a more interdisciplinary outlook for the department. This success led to attracting more faculty members who secured external funding, transitioned research to successful software businesses, and encouraged faculty to collaborate for wider success of faculty, students, and academic units beyond computer science.

Professor Ford was a very successful and popular teacher and mentor. He taught a wide variety of courses for the department, including such core courses as Programming Languages and Networks, and more advanced courses that included topics like Licensing, Open Sourcing of Software, and Data Visualization. His support of a strong Software Engineering component in the curriculum saw support in the local business community, which promoted strong ties with the private sector. Dr. Ford was able to bring aspects of his research, especially in the area of networking, into the classroom providing the undergraduate students with insights into academia and graduate studies.

Dr. Ford was a highly successful researcher on such diverse topics as cyber-learning and network infrastructure, programming languages, public relations, data storage, and ecosystem modeling. He demonstrated an ability to procure significant external funding from such agencies and business as NSF, DoD, DoE, USFS, USGS, IBM, HP, and others.

Professor Ford took a very active role in University service. He chaired the Academic IT, Graduate, and Budget Committees. He was chair of the Faculty Senate. He served as an IT Advisor to the Provost and as the University's CIO. In the CIO role Professor Ford was the key leader in delivering high-speed fiber optic internet service across Montana, literally border to border. His success in this enormously valuable internet procurement has had significant impact on the Montana University System as well as the development of high-tech business across the state.

The Department of Computer Science is pleased to nominate Professor Raymond Ford for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments