

September 16-17, 2015

ITEM 168-1016-R0915

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Japanese Language and Culture on Judith N. Rabinovitch – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Judith N. Rabinovitch from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 23 years of dedicated and valued service by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Judith N. Rabinovitch received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in East Asian Languages and Civilization from Harvard University. After ten years of teaching and service at other universities, where she had received tenure, she took up her present position as Karashima Professor at UM at the end of 1991 and the following year established the Japanese B.A. program, the first in the state. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, she provided distinguished service as section head for Japanese throughout her UM years, developing the curricula, exchange relationships, and paid work internships in Japan for students. Dr. Rabinovitch was nominated to serve on both national and international boards and committees in support of Japanese education and research. Her research interest is classical kanshi (poetry by Japanese literati composed in Chinese, the preeminent literary language in East Asia) with a focus on the Heian age, ca. 900-1200. She has gained a wide reputation both for her knowledge of the Japanese classics and for the quality of the graduates of UM's Japanese program. At UM, Professor Rabinovitch taught a range of courses but particularly enjoyed teaching Beginning Japanese and Introduction to Classical Japanese. Dr. Rabinovitch received a teaching honors citation from the Honors College and several sabbatical and merit awards from the College of Arts and Sciences over the years. Her teaching evaluations and constant efforts to mentor and assist students show dedication and enthusiasm for her subject, a strong interest in her students' success, and high standards of excellence.

After several published works in the early Heian literature field, Professor Rabinovitch went on to publish three further books and a monograph with Timothy R. Bradstock, Professor of Chinese. Recently, a fifth volume devoted to Heian kanshi has been completed. Their combined skills in classical Chinese and Japanese have enabled them to carry out pioneering research in Sino-Japanese verse and its important place in traditional court culture. Throughout her UM years, Professor Rabinovitch was invited to give many talks in her field of expertise. In 2008, she was selected as Japan Forum Speaker at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University. In support of her research, she has received major grants and fellowships from Fulbright, Social Science Research Council, Japan Foundation, and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, among others. Dr. Rabinovitch also had the memorable experience of teaching for a year at Shanghai International Studies University, where she received a Distinguished Service Award in 1996. She held two invited professorships and numerous fellowships in Japan.

At UM, Professor Rabinovitch was active in a range of service roles, contributing to the advancement of Japanese studies education at UM and helping students achieve their full potential. She also provided assistance with early cataloging efforts at the Mansfield Library during the building of the Japanese collection and obtained eight external book awards for the library and Japanese section. Professor Rabinovitch served on a number of important committees, including the Advisory Board of the Mansfield

Center, the General Education Committee, the International Committee, and several others that foster faculty research and curricula development. She twice chaired the MCLL Faculty Evaluation committee. In addition, she served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Teachers of Japanese, the Bridging Scholarship Selection Committee and the International Advisory Committee of *Japan Review* (Kyoto, Japan).

Over the years, she has taken pleasure in seeing more than thirty Japanese majors decide to pursue MAs and PhDs in various fields after leaving UM, while many others have launched fruitful careers in teaching or business, contributing to cultural understanding and the promotion of trade relationships with Japan. Maintaining the Japanese section's overseas internships over many years was another source of satisfaction; these programs enabled students to gain the experience of living and working in Japan. In recent years, Professor Rabinovitch has volunteered her time and language skills to assist Fukushima disaster relief education and research, while also continuing her efforts to sustain long-lasting academic ties with Japanese organizations and partner institutions.

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures is pleased to nominate Professor Judith N. Rabinovitch for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments