

January 12, 2017

ITEM 174-2702-R0117

Request for Authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Spanish upon Dr. St. John Robinson

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. St. John Robinson from the faculty of Montana State University Billings, the faculty extends its appreciation to Dr. St. John Robinson for his 35 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages, to the University, and to 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.

EXPLANATION

Since joining the Spanish faculty in 1982, Dr. Robinson has made major contributions to his department, the University and to the community in teaching, service, and scholarship. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1988 and to Full Professor in 1996. From 1987 to 1993, and again from 2000-2009, he was appointed Department Chair. During his tenure as Chair, Dr. Robinson led his faculty, staff and students through various changes in policy, personnel and politics, never failing in his support for and development of the language programs and the people who sustained them. In 2009, the Spanish Department became a part of the Department of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages and from that point, St. John continued to direct the Modern Languages faculty and programs. Dr. Robinson continues to direct the Modern Language Program and is the academic coordinator of International Studies.

In addition to serving as Chair (1987-1993, 2000-2009), he also served as Director of the Japanese Program (1983-1986), Director of the area FLES Program (Foreign Languages in Elementary Schools), Chair of the Academic Senate (1990-1992), Co-Chair (1989-1990) and later Chair (2003-2004) of the College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee, and is currently the Academic Coordinator of the International Studies Minor. He is also a Board Member of the Montana Migrant Council. Dr. Robinson's work with the Montana Migrant Council has provided our students with excellent internship opportunities at the council's clinics in Billings, Hardin, Bridger, and at Flathead Lake. The experience students' gain through these internships is similar to a graduate-level internship in which students must apply high-level language and cultural skills in a medical environment. This internship opportunity is unique to our campus and gives our students invaluable first-hand experiences and training in a real world setting. Dr. Robinson established this program in the 1980s, and we continue to place students with the Montana Migrant Council every year.

St. John's dedication and expertise have sustained and promoted the language programs at MSUB for decades, and his commitment and service to the university is and has been exemplary.

In teaching, Dr. Robinson developed and has taught a number of courses which make-up the Spanish major. The Civilization and Culture courses (SPNS 311-312) include study of language development, art, geography, history, cultures, and film in order to offer current and well-rounded education for our students. He also developed a General Education course focused on Latin American culture, history, and traditions across time and geography. In addition, he designed and developed an outstanding literature sequence (SPNS

314, 405, 406) which provides our majors with a comprehensive foundation of literary and cultural trends and events.

In scholarly contributions, Dr. Robinson has presented and published with consistency. He has published two books, several book chapters, numerous journal articles, over 20 encyclopedia articles, and dozens of presentations at the local, state, national, and international levels. He also has translated documents for the university, hospitals, legal services, and a variety of community organizations for 35 years.

On a more personal note, St. John contributes to the department not only in service, scholarship, and teaching, but he also makes our work enjoyable - it is a pleasure to work with him. His guidance and mentoring of junior faculty has been invaluable to the department, to the success of the language programs, and to the university as a whole.

Because of his numerous contributions to his department, college, and university through 35 years of dedicated service, especially for his dedication as chair and later director of a diverse and multidisciplinary department, it is the consensus of his colleagues in the Department of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages that Dr. St. John Robinson clearly merits the recognition accorded by the designation of Professor Emeritus of Spanish at Montana State University Billings.

ATTACHMENTS

None