

May 23-24, 2018

ITEM 179-1506-R0518

**Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus upon Professor John Morrison - Montana Tech of the University of Montana**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor John Morrison from the faculty of Montana Tech of The University of Montana, the faculty wish to express their appreciation for his 17 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of Electrical Engineering, Montana Tech, the Butte Community, and the State of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

John L. Morrison earned his BS degree in 1967 and his MS degree in 1968, both from the University of Connecticut. Over two decades later in 1992, he earned the PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Idaho. Dr. Morrison joined the research staff at Idaho National Laboratory (INL) in 1973. Over the next 18 years, Dr. Morrison rose through the ranks at INL working a wide variety of electrical engineering research problems. In 2005 John was awarded the prestigious INL "Lifetime Achievement Award". Dr. Morrison joined Montana Tech in 2001 as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2004, and was promoted to Full Professor with tenure in 2009.

John is one of the founding members of the current Electrical Engineering Department. He was critical in nurturing the program, having developed over half of the curriculum. These are some of the most difficult courses at Montana Tech. He is a rigorous teacher and demands hard work from his students. In return, Dr. Morrison goes to great lengths to help students succeed. For example, nearly every Sunday afternoon, he offers a help session (he calls them "workshops"). Because of the significant amount of time he spends outside of class helping students, he has developed a close mentoring relationship with many EE students. As one student told me: Dr. Morrison "will bend over backwards" to help a student. His dedication to excellence set a culture within the EE department that permeates the entire program. The program now has a national reputation for excellence that is rooted, in large part, in John's work ethic.

Dr. Morrison's research and scholarly activities at Tech are truly impressive. He is an international expert in battery diagnostics. Over his career at Tech, he has established close collaborative relationships with federal research institutions (INL, and NASA), and with private industry such as the Ford Motor Company. Since joining Tech, he has had many grants funded, advised several MS students, advised one PhD student, been awarded 12 patents, and over 20 refereed publications. In 2007, he was named the "Engineer of the Year" by the local section of IEEE. And most impressively, he was awarded an R&D 100 Award in 2011 for his innovations in battery diagnostics. An R&D 100 annually recognizes the top 100 innovations in the United States each year.

With this recommendation goes sincere gratitude for over 17 years of invaluable teaching, service and research. To Dr. Morrison: congratulations and best wishes for the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments