March 7-8, 2019

ITEM 182-1502-R0319

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Computer Science upon Dr. A. Frank Ackerman - Montana Technological University

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THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of A. Frank Ackerman from the faculty of Montana Tech, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the Montana Tech, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Ackerman has tirelessly worked for the Computer Science Department since he started at Montana Tech in 2006. During his tenure here, he has developed and delivered at least two courses from scratch (ESOF 411, Verification and Validation, and CSCI 114, Programming in C#). He has been the primary faculty person for the Software Engineering degree program and as such has refined all of the courses for that degree. In the process. Dr. Ackerman has spent countless hours writing and perfecting a set of software engineering standards for use by our students both within and outside their coursework. When it comes to teaching, Dr. Ackerman spends a great deal of effort developing course content and materials, and takes the time to make sure students understand the concepts he is presenting. He has a particular interest in helping novice programmers learn the craft.

When Dr. Ackerman first came to Tech, he initiated, coached and sustained the ACM International Computer Programming Competition, and has since passed on that torch to other faculty. As a result of his initial efforts and those that have followed, Montana Tech is now a regional ICPC contest site for the Rocky Mountain Region. Our student teams generally perform well in these competitions, and their participation also increases their skills in problem solving. Without Dr. Ackerman's initial efforts, this avenue of student participation would not exist. In his work with students for our Senior Design capstone course, Dr. Ackerman has participated in many student projects, including the robotics team (Mars Miner), using humanoid robotics (NAO) for recruiting, and many student game development projects. Dr. Ackerman has spent much of his time here at Tech. Evenings and weekends, students count on him being here and often ask for his assistance on projects. He is always glad to help, even when the projects are for courses outside his own. He was instrumental in the original development of requirements and specifications for our AbOut ABET outcome assessment software which was highly regarded by evaluators on our last ABET visit. Dr. Ackerman has always been a willing participant in departmental service activities and has provided service to Montana Tech in his committee work on the Instructional Improvement Committee, the Library Committee, and the Moodle Committee.

Dr. Ackerman does not intend to retire idly - he has an interest in using his time to author a book on software engineering and has expressed continuing interest in helping novices learn programming concepts. It is hard to imagine Frank not maintaining a presence in the department. We as a faculty would very much like to maintain that relationship through emeritus.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon A. Frank Ackerman the rank of Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at Montana Tech together with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto appertaining.

ATTACHMENTS
None