

March 7-8, 2019

**ITEM 182-2701-R0319**

**Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Communication upon Dr. Daniel D. Gross, Montana State University Billings**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Daniel D. Gross from Montana State University Billings, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

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**EXPLANATION**

Since joining the Communications faculty in 1991, Dr. Gross has made major contributions to his department, university, and community in teaching, service, scholarship, and other professional areas. He was awarded tenure in 1988, with promotion to Associate Professor. Dr. Gross has demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarship and service to both the university and the community throughout his 27 years of service at MSU Billings.

Dr. Gross received his Ph.D. in Speech Communication from the University of Oregon in 1989; his Master of Arts in Speech Communication in 1983 from the University of Colorado at Denver; his Master of Divinity in Theological Studies from the Denver Theological Seminary in 1972; and his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1968.

Numerous honors have recognized Dr. Gross for this achievement as both a teacher and a scholar, including: the award of Excellence Public Relations Society of America Montana Chapter for Department of Communication and Theatre, Helena; Leadership Recognition for Online Course Delivery in 1999; Faculty Achievement Award, 1997; the Outstanding Faculty Award, 1995, 1997; the Cox Fellowship, 1994; a Merit Award for Teaching Excellence, 1993; a teaching fellowship, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 1986-1987; and the Denver Seminary Tuition Scholarship Award, Denver Theological Seminary, 1968 and 1969.

In Scholarship, Dr. Gross has published 27 peer-reviewed journal articles, chaired 13 scholarly panels, and made 54 scholarly presentations at national/regional communications conferences. He had pioneered work in pedagogy and communication theory. The extent and nature of Dr. Gross's service is vast. He has served on committees from the departmental level to the University level, participating in at least 37 committees.

On campus, Dr. Gross pioneered teaching in online education. He was one of the first academics to translate live courses into an online setting. Recognizing that online instruction was more convenient for students and allowed them the opportunity to work and study toward a degree of choice, he initiated full degree completion programs in Communications through online education. He discovered quickly that enrollment in online far out-paced live counter-part classes and afforded him the opportunity to teach twice as many students as many of his colleagues. His online courses provide a variety of educational venues: videos, audios to accompany each PowerPoint lecture, weekly assignments and discussions based on the reading, notes, and lecture materials. As a department, we have enjoyed the warmth, leadership, support, and intelligence of Dr. Gross's tenure. He will be dearly missed and is well deserving of emeritus status.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Daniel D. Gross the rank of Professor Emeritus of Communications at Montana State University Billings and wishes him well for many years in the future.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None