

May 22-23, 2019

ITEM 183-1502-R0519

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Mathematics on James Handley – Montana Technological University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor James Handley from the faculty of Montana Tech, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 36 years of dedication and valued service by requesting the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

EXPLANATION

Professor James Handley came to Montana Tech in 1983. Professor Handley came to Montana Tech after finishing his Master's degree at Michigan Technological University. He has taught in the department for 36 years. Professor Handley is an excellent instructor with consistently high teaching evaluations. These high scores are both a testament to Professor Handley's skill and experience as an instructor and his availability to his students. Professor Handley understands that teaching is a highly personal activity. What works for one instructor may not work for another. Consequently, Professor Handley's approach is very data driven. Rather than focusing on trends or fads, Professor Handley looks for what works in his classroom. Although he doesn't succumb to fads, Professor Handley is not afraid to adapt his approach as times change. He included two syllabi in his evaluation this year, one from 1985 and one from 2018. The distinct differences between the two point to Professor Handley's ability to adapt to different contexts. Professor Handley's strong sense of self has allowed him to adapt without losing the essence of who he is as a teacher.

Over his career, Professor Handley has served on numerous campus and community committees. Professor Handley has always been willing to volunteer when needed. He has served on numerous search committees and has chaired several searches. He has volunteered for campus events like the Science Fair, Midnight Breakfast, and the Tech Ski Day. Professor Handley served on Inter Unit Benefit Committee for MUS for many years. His commitment to serving the university community as a whole, is laudable. Professor Handley is also deeply committed to bettering the Butte Community. He regularly serves as a judge for the Butte High Speech and Debate Competition, has volunteered with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and has been a member of the Mai Wah Society.

For many years, Professor Handley has helped new faculty members assimilate to Montana Tech and the Butte community. Over the years, he has taught numerous faculty members from departments across campus to cross country ski. He has invited new faculty members to join him at community events, hikes, and/or events at his home. Professor Handley has often served as the heart of the Department of Mathematical Sciences. When a faculty member has a death in the family, Professor Handley is the one that organizes the condolence card. When a faculty member needs transportation to a medical appointment or the airport, Professor Handley volunteers to provide it. For many years, Professor Handley has organized the department social events for faculty, staff, and students. He is the one that does the grilling on the day of our spring and fall department barbeques rain, shine, or snow. Professor Handley created a sense of family and community in our department. Professor Handley is to be praised for his exceptional efforts serving the students, the department, and Montana Tech as a whole for more than 30 years. He will be sincerely missed by the department, the students, and faculty and staff across campus.

Based on his accomplishments in teaching and service, the Mathematical Sciences Department of Montana Tech is pleased to nominate Professor James Handley as Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Montana Tech together with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto appertaining.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments