

May 20, 2020

ITEM 188-1004-R0520

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Betsy Bach, University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the retirement of Betsy Bach from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wish to express their appreciation for her 35 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by requesting that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

After a brief career as a police officer in Holland, Michigan in the 1970s, Professor Betsy Bach received her M.A. from the University of Montana in 1980 and her Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1985. Professor Bach is highly deserving of the rank of Professor Emeritus for her 35 years of distinguished service in the Department of Communication Studies and to the University of Montana.

In 2017, Professor Betsy Bach won the Donald H. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education from the National Communication Association, which recognizes one member of our largest national association for outstanding teaching and excellence in the discipline. Throughout her tenure at UM, Professor Bach was one of the very best teachers on campus as evidenced by numerous local awards, recognitions and student evaluations. In addition to her own teaching, she served as a mentor for many other UM teachers and mentored graduate teaching assistants. She chaired more than 45 M.A. thesis committees and served on more than 80 other graduate committees.

In addition to her teaching, Professor Bach published about 40 articles, book chapters, and audiovisual materials. She participated in numerous grant-funded research projects and delivered five keynote addresses at academic conferences over the course of her career. Her research was well respected as evidenced by citations of her work, reprints of her research and invitations to prestigious publications.

Professor Betsy Bach's service to the University of Montana, the discipline of Communication Studies and the Missoula community is truly exemplary. While her CV documents far too many service commitments to list here, there are a few to highlight. At the University of Montana, she served four years as the Assistant Provost for Retention and Enrollment Management, several years as the interim dean of the Davidson Honor's College, and roughly 8 years as department chair. She also participated in and chaired many committees across campus and won UM's distinguished administrator award in 1996. To the discipline, she served as the President of the National Communication Association and President of the Western States Communication Association in addition to many other service appointments. To the Missoula community, Professor Bach was the kind of professor who enhanced the relationship between UM and the community throughout her career and was generous with her time in a way that exemplifies the best of what all professors might hope to accomplish over the course of a career.

The Department of Communication Studies is proud to recommend Betsy Bach for the rank of Professor Emeritus for her long-term teaching, research and service contributions to the University of Montana.

ATTACHMENTS

None.