

May 20, 2020

ITEM 188-1012-R0520

Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on J.B. Alexander (Sandy) Ross, University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the retirement of Sandy Ross from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wish to express their appreciation for his 17 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 him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. J.B. Alexander (Sandy) Ross earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Washington in 1976. After post-doctoral appointments in Chemistry at the University of Washington, Biology at The Johns Hopkins University, and the Department of Laboratory Medicine at the University of Washington, he joined the Department of Biochemistry at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY and then moved to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Montana in 2002.

Professor Ross has been a successful, popular teacher. He was well-known for his expertise in biophysics and spectroscopy and regularly consulted by students and faculty regarding their research. He served on many doctoral and masters committees, as well as supervised both doctoral and masters students. He co-taught the graduate-level course in biophysics. He earned strong teaching evaluations from his students and was evaluated consistently as an excellent teacher by colleagues.

Professor Ross conducts internationally recognized research in molecular biophysics that has received continuous NIH and NSF support and he continues to serve on NIH study sections for grant review. Since joining the University of Montana, he has served as Director of the BioSpectroscopy Core Research Laboratory, providing support and state-of-the-art instrumentation for fluorescence spectroscopy and microscopy to research centers. His peer-reviewed publications are in the top journals and he is an Executive Editor for the journal *Analytical Biochemistry*.

Professor Ross has provided valuable service on campus by supporting diversity and American Indian/Alaska Native graduate students in STEM. From 2008 to 2014, he was Director of the Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership (SIGP), a grant from the A.P. Sloan Foundation. In 2010, he was recognized as Sloan Mentor of the Year by the Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute. In 2014, he received the Stanley C. Israel Diversity Award sponsored by the American Chemical Society Committee on Minority Affairs. From 2014-2019, he was Principal Investigator of the NSF Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) grant "Collaborative Research: The Pacific Northwest Alliance to Develop, Implement and Study a STEM Graduate Education Model for American Indians and Native Alaskans", a consortium with Washington State University, University of Idaho and Montana State University. The University of Montana award included collaborations with Salish Kootenai College and Montana Tech.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is pleased to nominate Professor J.B. Alexander (Sandy) Ross for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None.