




DATE: August 14, 2020

TO: Clayton T. Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education
Members of the Montana Board of Regents

FROM: Seth Bodnar, President 

RE: Nomination of Dr. Douglas J. Emlen for Regents Professorship

I write seeking your approval of and support for the appointment of Dr. Douglas (Doug) J. Emlen as the newest Regents Professor at the University of Montana. A world-renowned and respected researcher, an engaging and dynamic teacher, a skilled and prolific author, and a leader committed to public service, Dr. Emlen exemplifies the qualities of a Regents Professor.

Dr. Emlen is an internationally-recognized evolutionary biologist and an expert in behavioral ecology and developmental biology, particularly in relation to the development and evolution of animal weapons. The first Montanan to be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2016) and to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (2002), Dr. Emlen's numerous research articles are highly impactful and widely-cited. Among other publications, Dr. Emlen is the co-author of a textbook, *Evolution: Making Sense of Life*, adopted at more than 250 universities and colleges, and the author of *Animal Weapons: The Evolutions of Battle*, for which he won the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science in 2015.

Beyond his formidable research accomplishments, Dr. Emlen is widely-regarded as a gifted teacher and mentor. The attached packet includes letters from both a current and former Ph.D. student which rave about his dedication to his advisees. These students describe Dr. Emlen as a "gifted and charismatic teacher" and a "dedicated and passionate teacher," sentiments that must be shared by many other students as Dr. Emlen is routinely rated across the board as "excellent" in course evaluations. A winner of UM's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2014, Dr. Emlen was also awarded the Carnegie/CASE Professor of the Year Award for the State of Montana in 2015.

Highly-sought as a speaker to audiences worldwide, Dr. Emlen is a committed public servant who dedicates significant time to outreach activities that make "science more accessible and more exciting to the public." Through his numerous public appearances, interviews, and the documentaries about his work, Dr. Emlen is an incredible representative of the University of Montana and the Montana University System.

Nominated by Regents Professor Ragan Callaway, Dr. Emlen's nomination was supported by the Interim Dean of UM's College of Humanities and Sciences, the Associate Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences, an emeritus faculty member from Princeton University and the previously noted students. Unanimously recommended by the Regents Professor Selection Committee and approved by Acting Provost Reed Humphrey, I enthusiastically support the appointment of Dr. Doug Emlen as the next Regents Professor at the University of Montana.

Office of the President