

September 16-17, 2020

ITEM 190-2701-R0920

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of Philosophy upon Dr. Lisa Kemmerer, Montana State University Billings

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Lisa Kemmerer from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Montana State University Billings, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for her service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

A member of the Department of English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages from 2001 to 2020, Dr. Lisa Kemmerer taught courses in ethics, religious studies, and other areas of philosophy. In her classes, she combined best practices in service and community-based learning, civic engagement, and diversity education, helping her students to become publicly engaged citizens. Her frequent guest speakers provided multicultural viewpoints, particularly those of Native Americans, broadening students' understanding of complex issues. Her students received real-life, hands-on experience in effecting change in their community; students often noted that taking a course with Dr. Kemmerer changed their lives.

With degrees from Reed College, Harvard Divinity School, and University of Glasgow, Dr. Kemmerer is a prolific scholar-researcher and author, earning numerous grants and publishing eleven books, three poetry chapbooks, roughly 100 articles, and dozens of anthology chapters, encyclopedia entries, and book reviews; she has even created videos in her areas of expertise. Dr. Kemmerer organized conferences, forums, and other events at MSU Billings, including the first world religions conference in Billings, featuring speakers from every major religion of the world, including indigenous speakers. In conjunction with Campus Ministries, she also organized the series called Stirring the Pot: Forum by and about Women.

The major focuses of Dr. Kemmerer's research and service activities are ethics and comparative religions, focusing on animal ethics and Asian religions. At MSUB, she became internationally sought after as an activist and speaker. She created a traveling exhibit, Animals and World Religions, that has been shown in Canada and many places in the United States. Dr. Kemmerer also founded Tapestry: Women's Institute of Integrated Justice, an NGO dedicated to mentoring young women scholars in her field of expertise. Both the exhibit and Tapestry shine a spotlight on MSU Billings as Dr. Kemmerer's home institution.

Dr. Kemmerer's many contributions to her academic disciplines and to MSUB have brought her recognition and awards. During her years at MSUB, she won a "Making a Difference Award" from MSUB's Student Opportunity Services student association, two Teaching Excellence Awards from the Associated Students of MSUB, the Cox Fellowship for outstanding junior faculty, and a Faculty Excellence Award. All of these achievements, along with her service and dedication to the University, Billings, and international communities, demonstrate her worthiness of recognition with emeritus status.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Lisa Kemmerer the rank of Professor Emerita of Philosophy at Montana State University Billings and wishes her well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None.