

September 15-16, 2021

**ITEM 196-1014-R0921**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of the Sociology Department on Dr. Teresa Sobieszczyk – University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Teresa Sobieszczyk from the faculty of UM-Missoula, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 18 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of Sociology and the University of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Professor Sobieszczyk began at the University of Montana in the Department of Sociology as Assistant Professor in 2002. She quickly rose through the ranks to Associate Professor in 2007 and full Professor in 2019. She served as Chair of the Sociology Department from 2019 (stepping in for the previous Chair, who suddenly passed away) until her retirement in June, 2020. Her formal education includes a B.A. degree in English from the University of Colorado-Boulder (1986), an M.A. in International Politics from the University of Denver (1991), an MS in Development Sociology from Colorado University (1995) and her Ph.D. in Development Sociology from Cornell University (2000).

The Sociology Department holds Professor Sobieszczyk's work in high regard, as she is a specialist on population studies and global development. She was a very dedicated and well-respected teacher by both students and fellow faculty members. Her courses included Social Issues in Southeast Asia, Introduction to Development, and Gender and Global Development and were in high demand. Dr. Sobieszczyk also developed courses and taught more broadly in cross-disciplinary programs, most notably in South and Southeast Asian Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Gerontology, and International Development Studies. She received strong teaching evaluations and worked closely with graduate students in her qualitative methods courses, on thesis projects, and as Director of Graduate Studies.

Professor Sobieszczyk's research focused on topics important to Montana and offered comparisons with UM's international focus, Asia and Asian issues. She received a prestigious Fulbright-Hays award in 2005 for her work in Thailand and a fellowship from the same program in 2009 for travel to China and Tibet. Her research addressed topics such as health communication issues in remote areas and she combined her work with travel and data collection throughout rural Montana. More recently, her focus was on the important and timely issues of ecotourism and sustainability on her Fulbright funded trip (2012-13), teaching and conducting research in Vietnam. She gave numerous public talks throughout Montana and abroad on these topics and published in both academic journals and broadly-read reports.

Professor Sobieszczyk excelled in the area of service on campus. Among her many leadership roles, she directed the International Development Studies Program (director, 2013-16; Executive Committee, 2008, 2011-20), the Peace Corps Prep Program (2013-16), served on the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Executive Committee (2002-2020), and held various leadership roles on university committees throughout her time at UM. She was heavily involved in a number of programs (including the College of Humanities and Sciences Advisory Board, the Sustainable Campus Committee, Gerontology, the Global Public Health program, and the Faculty Library Committee), across campus. Under her leadership, the Peace Corps Prep Program was recognized nationally for graduating more certificate holders than all other similar programs in the country combined.

The Sociology Department is honored to recommend Professor Teresa Sobieszcyk for Emeritus status, which is duly warranted given her long record of distinguished service at the University of Montana as a teacher, scholar, and citizen.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None