

May 18-19, 2022

**ITEM 200-1603-R0522**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Biology on Dr. Karl Ulrich, The University of Montana Western**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Karl Ulrich from the faculty of The University of Montana Western, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 36 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Professor Karl Ulrich has served the University of Montana Western in a variety of roles beginning with being an adjunct professor of biology in 1986, advancing to the rank of tenured professor of biology, serving 19 years as the chief academic officer, and one year as the acting chancellor during the critical approval year for the conversion of the campus to Experience One scheduling.

Professor Ulrich earned a B.A. in Biology from the University of Minnesota, Duluth; an M.S. in Botany (ecology) and a Ph.D. in Zoology (ecology) both from Michigan State University. Immediately before coming to Montana Western, he served three years as a postdoctoral research associate for Michigan State University at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire, one of the most intensively studied areas in the world. He has eight peer reviewed articles and a number of scholarly presentations to his credit.

For much of his early career at UMW, he was one of only two full-time professors of biology and thus taught a large variety of courses including ecology, environmental science, earth science, botany, zoology, evolution, genetics, and microbiology. After returning full-time to the faculty in 2016, Professor Ulrich has taught introductory biology for both majors and non-majors, general ecology, evolution, general botany, and systematic botany.

His proudest accomplishments as an administrator included the development of a large variety of degrees and majors in business, and the arts and sciences, from a single degree with a single major with multiple areas of study (Bachelor of Liberal Studies). The first step in this process was to develop a single B.A. with multiple options. This progressed, often with much resistance, to the development of numerous B.S. and B.A. majors, minors, and option areas. Professor Ulrich also supported the development of additional and highly revised offerings in teacher education and early childhood education. He also worked closely with the local equine industry and interested faculty to develop Montana Western's highly successful natural horsemanship and equine studies degree programs.

Professor Ulrich was also an early supporter of the faculty-initiated Experience One course delivery system, working very closely with faculty, faculty senate, students, staff, and administrators to ensure the success of that signature offering. As the chief academic officer and interim chancellor, Professor Ulrich played a central role in the adoption and success of Experience One.

After returning to the faculty, he became the Biology Department representative on faculty senate and was elected to both vice chair and chair roles. He worked diligently to preserve the system of shared governance, including the rights of that body to review matters of academic concern prior to their

implementation, including changes in the structure of the academic administration and the evaluation of academic administrators. Faculty Senate is once again an integral part of shared governance on the Montana Western campus.

The Biology Department enthusiastically provides its highest recommendation to grant Dr. Karl Ulrich Professor Emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

No Attachments