

**November 17-18, 2022**

**ITEM 203-1016-R1122**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of the School of Public and Community Health Sciences on Dr. Annie Sondag – University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

Upon the retirement of Kathleen “Annie” Sondag from the faculty at the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for her 29 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 her by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

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**EXPLANATION**

Dr. Sondag earned her Ph.D. at Southern Illinois University in 1988 and joined the Department of Health and Human Performance in 1993 as an Associate Professor. She rose to the rank of Professor in 1998. During her tenure at the university, she played a key role in developing both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Community Health and Prevention Sciences and in establishing the School of Public and Community Health Sciences at the University of Montana.

Professor Sondag was a successful teacher. Throughout her career she taught a wide variety of both undergraduate and graduate courses, and served as an academic advisor and mentor to over one thousand undergraduate students and mentored and directed the research projects of dozens of graduate students. She earned strong teaching evaluations from her students. In 1998 she was recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as the Montana Professor of the Year and in the years since received multiple merit awards from the university for her excellence in teaching. She was recognized by the University’s Office of Student Affairs as a Wellness Advocate for her efforts in promoting student health.

Professor Sondag’s major contribution in regard to research was in the area of HIV Prevention. Over the course of her career, she brought to the University over a million dollars in grants as the principle investigator for a multitude of HIV prevention projects. For nearly 25 years, she worked closely with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to examine the needs of individuals who were at increased risk of infection with HIV. Information from these assessments was instrumental in designing programs that prevented the spread of HIV among Montana’s most vulnerable populations. Her evaluation of Montana’s HIV Prevention Community Planning Process was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a model for rural states. In 2008 she received the Governor’s Recognition Award for outstanding HIV/AIDS service. More recently, Professor Sondag collaborated with UM colleagues and the US Forest Service to examine the physical training needs of wildland firefighters. Results from this and other work have been published in the form of professional reports to funding agencies and in peer reviewed journals.

Professor Sondag received several meritorious awards from the University for her service contributions. She served for much of her career on the Faculty Senate, guided the Health and Human Performance Department through major program changes as the chair of the Curriculum Committee, served on dozens of thesis and dissertation committees, worked with the Office of Public Instruction in developing statewide teacher preparation standards, and in 2019 received the Tom Boone Town and Gown Award for her collaborative work with community partners. And finally, most recently Dr. Sondag assisted colleagues in the School of Public and Community Health Sciences and UM Student Wellness Program in developing a

statewide wellness program to serve public health professionals adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The School of Public and Community Health Sciences is pleased to nominate Professor Sondag for Emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None