

September 21-22, 2022

**ITEM 202-1007-R0922**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences on Professor Keith Parker; University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Associate Professor Keith Parker from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 40 years of dedicated, effective 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**

The University of Montana (UM) requests the Board of Regents appoint Dr. Keith Parker as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Skaggs School of Pharmacy. Dr. Parker retired from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy effective July 2, 2021. At Western Montana College in Dillon, MT, he served as Full Professor of Chemistry and Dean of the Faculty until 1992. He served as a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at UM from January, 1993 to July 2, 2021.

Dr. Parker received his Bachelor of Science degree from Montana State University in 1972. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of California at San Francisco. He joined UM in 1993 as faculty where he had a distinguished, productive tenure until his retirement.

As faculty, Dr. Parker distinguished himself in teaching, research and professional service. He principally taught Pharmacology/Toxicology, one of the central content courses for Pharmacy students. He taught Neuropharmacology, as well as many other courses. In his teaching evaluations students regularly ranked him among the top instructors in the department with approval ratings consistently above 90%. He was honored as the Rho Chi Teacher of the Year 3 times, received the Marshon Award from the Montana Academy of Sciences, and a Special Service Award from the Montana Federation of Teachers. He held numerous leadership positions in his field, including President, Vice-President and Treasurer of the Montana Academy of Sciences and President of the Western Montana College Faculty Association. Dr. Parker served on the Board of Directors for the Murdoch Molecular Biology Facility and on numerous editorial boards for scientific journals. As a dedicated instructor, he carried a considerable teaching load contributing to both the pharmacy and graduate curricula. He supervised numerous graduate students as a mentor or on advisory committees.

His interest in research focused on 5HT<sub>1a</sub>-receptors and ligands, actions of opioids and serotonin in the brain with a specialization in treatment of migraines. A review of his CV shows his many achievements that acknowledge his substantial contributions to the University and the field of neurological and pharmacological research. During his tenure in the University System he published 31 papers and he had nine funded grants. His laboratory presented research on 48 occasions at various public venues, thereby advancing the University's research mission.

Overall, the University of Montana has been well served by having Dr. Parker on its faculty during most of his exceptional career. The Skaggs School of Pharmacy is well respected both regionally and nationally, principally because the dedication and hard work by faculty and administrators such as Dr. Parker. He is well respected by his peers, UM students and the University community at-large. The Department of

Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences is pleased to enthusiastically nominate Professor Keith Parker for emeritus status.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None