

March 15-16, 2023

**ITEM 205-1601-R0323**

**Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of History on John Hajduk, The University of Montana Western**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of John Hajduk from the faculty of The University of Montana Western, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 26 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**

Please accept the Department of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences' nomination of Professor John Hajduk for Emeritus status at The University of Montana Western.

It is an honor and privilege to forward this well-deserved nomination. For 26 years Professor Hajduk dedicated most of his time advancing UM Western's academic mission in the State of Montana. Thousands of students have been directly and positively impacted by Professor Hajduk's pedagogical, scholarly and curricular efforts. He has been a credit to our university throughout the state; a model faculty member exemplifying the highest standards of the entire Montana University System.

As a member of a select faculty vanguard, Professor Hajduk successfully fought to persuade faculty, administrators and townspeople that X-1 was a superior scheduling model that would save our university and pedagogically benefit our students. He was selected to teach in both years of the Block pilot program before it went to full implementation. Ultimately, Professor Hajduk played an integral part in UM Western adopting block scheduling and Experience One as the core mission of the university.

As a teacher Professor Hajduk was one of the most effective and popular professors at UM Western. He always challenged students with rigorous classes. Professor Hajduk demanded that they think critically, and that they communicate as scholars both orally and on paper. Throughout his career he continuously strove to improve his classes by being creative, adventurous and innovative, and he constantly stayed abreast of the latest scholarship in his field in order to provide his students with the best education possible.

Professor Hajduk's scholarly achievements are considerable. He has authored a book, *Music Wars: Money, Politics and Race in the Construction of Rock and Roll Culture, 1940-1960*. He has written numerous scholarly articles, book reviews and encyclopedia entries. He has presented his scholarship at many professional conferences all around the country. And Professor Hajduk continues to be a dynamic scholar to this day. He will be active into the future, long after his retirement. Currently he is researching how popular culture in the 1950s and 1960s addressed the political and social hypocrisy of that era, and he hopes to write a book on this topic.

Finally, when it comes time to assess Professor Hajduk's service to UM Western, there are few faculty members who can equal his contributions. Here is just a very small sampling of Professor Hajduk's work at the university: he sat on the UMW Strategic Planning Task Force & Committee (2005-2015); he wrote the original Articles of Faculty Organization creating the Faculty Senate (he also was the HPSS Faculty senator from 2021 to 2023); he served on the University of Montana Budget Committee (2014-2016); he Chaired

the Department of History, Philosophy & Social Sciences (2003-2006, 2014-2015); he was President of the UMW Faculty Association (1998-2001); he served as Faculty Representative to the Montana Board of Regents Meetings (1998-2001); he served as faculty advisor to the ASUMW from 2015 to 2020; he helped establish UM Western's radio station, KDWG, serving on the station's board, and DJing a long running and popular show on Sunday nights; and he wrote all of History's program assessment reports, including the last two, seven-year reports.

The position of Professor represents the apex of our profession. No mere accumulation of points-earned, boxes checked could authenticate the merits necessary to earn the moniker of Professor. For the university, the Professor must be the paragon of informed, qualified inquiry, generative service to the institution and profession, teaching methodologies that validate and celebrate multiple ways of knowing, and steadfast guardianship of academic freedom and responsibility for all members of the academic community. Professor Hajduk is a paragon of those virtues and he will bring honor and veneration to the Western emeriti. He has left behind an incredible legacy at UM Western. Our university was enriched in countless ways by Professor Hajduk's wisdom, integrity and dedication. He will be missed very, very much. His sense of humor, decency, compassion, and friendship touched everyone he came in contact with—students, staff, faculty and administrators. We thank you for considering our nomination of Professor Hajduk for Emeritus status at UM Western.

Best,

Professor Mark Krank  
Professor Bill Janus  
Professor Michael Francisconi  
Professor Aaron Weinacht  
Professor Heather Hass  
Associate Professor Jessica Fowler

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None