

March 15-16, 2023

ITEM 205-2702-R0323

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emerita of English, Philosophy, & Modern Languages upon Dr. Deborah Schaffer; Montana State University Billings

THAT

The Department of English, Philosophy, & Modern Languages is nominating Dr. Deborah Schaffer for emerita status upon her retirement based on the many contributions she has made to our students, department, College, and University over 40 years of service.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Deborah Schaffer received her BA in Linguistics and French from the University of Rochester (1976), and her MA and Ph.D. in Linguistics from The Ohio State University (1982). Since joining the English faculty in 1983, Professor Schaffer has made major contributions to her department, university and local and professional communities in teaching, service, and scholarship. In teaching, she taught courses in linguistics, composition, literature, and writing pedagogy and updated and created several linguistics courses for the English programs. She also directed the MSUB Writing Lab (1995-2001) and served as WRIT 101 course coordinator for the EPML Dept. (2003-2020).

In campus service, Professor Schaffer served on department, college and university-level committees, most notably as chair of the University Rank and Tenure Committee (1999-2000) and as chair/co-chair of the Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Curriculum Council (2004-2023). She helped edit many MSUB and other documents, including the annual MSUB Wine & Food Festival catalog. In the community, Professor Schaffer has been an active member, committee chair, board member and officer in the Billings affiliate of AAUW for 40 years. She also served other local organizations, including Congregation Beth Aaron, in various capacities and made presentations to classes and other groups in the area. Professor Schaffer provided longstanding professional service to the Popular Culture Association, chairing the Language Attitudes and Popular Linguistics interest area for the annual PCA conference for 15 years, 1991-2005. In addition, she has been an editorial advisor for the Shippensburg Journal of Modern Languages from 2008 onward.

Dr. Schaffer produced many scholarly presentations and publications while at MSUB. She presented at least one academic paper at national conferences every year since 1983, with the exception of 2020's COVID-19 hiatus. She also published 13 academic articles in national and international journals since 1983, along with articles in other periodicals and conference proceedings, and chapters in edited collections. In addition, she co-edited two books, published numerous print and online book reviews, and was interviewed about her research on Radio New Zealand (2019).

Through the years, Professor Schaffer's professional contributions earned her university and other local honors, including two MSUB Faculty Excellence Awards, the Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities, a student-selected Outstanding Faculty Award, and two shared Named Gift Awards from the Billings AAUW affiliate.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Deborah Schaffer the rank of Professor Emerita of English, Philosophy & Modern Languages at Montana State University Billings and wishes her well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None