

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-1003-R0523

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Wood Science and Technology on Edwin Burke; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Edwin Burke from the faculty of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his forty-three 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.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Burke earned his Ph.D. at Colorado State University in 1978 and joined the School of Forestry at The University of Montana in 1979. Professor Burke rose rapidly to the rank of Associate Professor and then Professor. During his time at UM, he served as Associate Dean three times, from 1985 through 1994, from 2008 through 2011, and from July of 2017 through January of 2018. Dr. Burke served as the Department Chair of Forest Management from 2012 through 2014. He received Druids Professor of the Year awards in 1983, 1995, and 2017, an award for service to students from the University of Montana Division of Student Affairs in 2004, and the 2016 University of Montana Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year Award.

Dr. Burke was a very successful and popular teacher. His teaching constituted 3- 5 courses each semester, an extraordinary commitment given his fractional appointment in research with the MT Forest and Conservation Experiment Station. All his courses brought our students into the field for experiential learning using Montana as our classroom. Student evaluations show that students held high opinions of Professor Burke as an instructor for his impact as a teacher, advisor and mentor. Dr. Burke was widely acknowledged as the best that we have to offer as a supporter for our students.

Dr. Burke developed and operated an IAS-accredited Wood Sciences Laboratory, bringing to UM numerous international testing contracts, with results used to gain International Codes Council Evaluation Reports for structural products. The laboratory is seen as a high-quality provider of accredited testing and evaluation services for manufacturers around the world.

As the Program Administrator and Quality Manager of the International Academy of Wood Sciences-accredited Log Homes Council Structural Log Grading Program, he also developed and presented numerous short courses in Structural Log Grading. As a result of his efforts in extension training, tens of thousands of log and timber-framed homes built in America have had their logs and timbers structurally certified by graders trained and certified through his service work. Dr. Burke has a national reputation as a forensic wood scientist and logging safety expert, vetted in several States' district courts and all lower Federal Courts. These activities bring positive notoriety to the College of Forestry, the University of Montana, and the Montana University System. Further, the Department greatly anticipates Dr. Burke's continued engagement, notably at UM's Lubrecht Experimental Forest. His continued presence and actions relative to wood science, forest products, and forest operations bring sustained value to UM.

For his dedication and impact as a teacher, his accomplishments as a forest and wood scientist, and his long service to the wood industry, Dr. Edwin Burke is highly deserving of recognition as an Emeritus Professor of Wood Science and Technology.

ATTACHMENTS

None