

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-1010-R0523

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences on Brian Steele; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Brian Steele from the faculty of The University of Montana, 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.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Brian Steele earned his PhD in Mathematical Sciences from the University of Montana in 1995 and joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences in 1996. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2005 and Professor in 2012. He retired in May 2022.

Professor Steele taught a wide variety of courses at all levels, the majority of which were at the graduate level. He served on over 50 master's and doctoral graduate committees for students in other departments such as wildlife biology, biology, forestry, sociology, communication sciences, and anthropology. Within Math, he supervised four doctoral students and more than 10 master's students.

Professor Steele was the author or co-author of more than 20 refereed papers in statistics, machine learning, remote sensing, genetics, and wildlife biology. Dr Steele was the lead author of one of the first Data Science textbooks. He authored chapters in books concerning conservation genetics and environmental monitoring.

Professor Steele was instrumental in creating the Math department's Data Science master's degree and undergraduate certificate programs. In doing so, he developed four new courses focusing on Data Science theory, methods, programming, and projects. For many years, he was the only professor qualified to teach these courses.

The Department of Mathematical Sciences is pleased to recommend Professor Steele for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None