

May 17-18, 2023

ITEM 206-1013-R0523

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolution on Professor Arthur Woods; University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Arthur Woods from the Division of Biological Sciences of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 17 years of teaching, research, and service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon Professor Woods by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Dr. Arthur Woods earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1988 from the University of Washington, after which he held a postdoctoral appointment at Arizona State University and was a research scientist at University of Texas. In 2006, he was recruited to the University of Montana as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate in 2010, and to full professor in 2018. Dr. Woods will retire from the University of Montana in 2023.

Dr. Woods is a worldwide expert in marine and freshwater invertebrate physiology, particular with respect to varying temperature and oxygen availability. His research focused on how Antarctic Sea spiders function at temperatures that are continuously below freezing. These sorts of research questions have particular relevance as ocean and freshwater temperatures rise. Dr. Woods recent work includes how temperature and oxygen negatively affect the performance of Salmonflies (i.e., stoneflies), a highly charismatic Montana stream insect loved by trout anglers. Dr. Woods published 117 peer-reviewed papers and two books, of which most (87 papers and both books) were published while he was at University of Montana. He supported this research with over two million dollars in externally acquired funds. He mentored seven graduate students in his lab at UM (3 PhD & 4 MS) and hosted four postdoctoral scholars.

Dr. Woods is an especially strong teacher. His early classes included a non-majors evolution course (Evolution & Society), contributions to the graduate core class in physiology, and a Global Leadership Initiative freshman seminar. Since 2014, he taught introductory biology, BIOB160 (Principles of Living Systems, 400 students), including the laboratory sections that he helped revamp over the past six years. In addition, he rotated among BIOL 435 (Comparative Animal Physiology) and BIOO 462 (Entomology). He also taught an irregular seminar on using R for biostatistics, designed for both undergraduate and graduate students (and sometimes a few faculty members!). Finally, he is the co-host of the Big Biology podcast (www.bigbiology.org), which started in 2017. They release recorded conversations every other week throughout the academic year (22 to 24 per season), covering cutting-edge topics with biologists, physicists, and journalists from around the world. They are consistently ranked in the top 10 of biology podcasts worldwide.

Dr. Woods supported independent research projects for 25 UM undergraduates, several of which have been published (with the students as first authors) in peer-reviewed journals. At UM, he served on the master's or doctoral committees of 30 other students. He served as program director for Ecology & Evolution from 2019 to 2021. Administratively, he served on the Global Leadership Initiative task force and the Faculty Development Office steering committee (as chair from 2015 to 2019). Outside the university over the past decade, he served on the editorial boards of five peer-reviewed journals (*Functional Ecology*,

American Naturalist, Integrative and Comparative Biology, Journal of Insect Physiology, and The Biological Bulletin).

The Division of Biological Sciences is pleased to recommend Dr. Arthur Woods for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

None