

May 17-18, 2023

**ITEM 206-1501-R0523**

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences on Dr. John W. Ray; Montana Technological University**

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**THAT**

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor John W. Ray from the faculty of Montana Tech, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 48 years of dedication and valued service by requesting the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

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**EXPLANATION**

John graduated with a B.A. in political science and minor in history from the University of Southwestern Louisiana earning membership in Pi Kappa Delta debating society.

John earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science as well as an M.A. in Communication Arts from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. John's Ph.D. dissertation was entitled Kant and Hegel on Will, Freedom and the State.

**Academic Performance**

John was director of debate at the University of Wisconsin and joined the Montana Tech faculty in the fall of 1975 and, along with his wife Roberta, developed a degree in Society and Technology for what was then called the Humanities and Social Science Department. He also developed political science classes in American government, international relations, public administration, political theory and political parties and pressure groups. John was also a major author of the Liberal Studies Degree that preceded our IAS degree.

During the early years of their teaching at Tech, John and Roberta Ray served as advisers and coaches for the speech and debate team and traveled with the students to competitions as far as away Wisconsin, British Columbia and California. The debate and speech team included students from most majors and non-traditional as well as traditional students. These students brought home many awards and trophies for speech and debate competition.

John published peer reviewed journal articles in the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Southern Speech Communication Journal*, *Western Speech Communication Journal*, and the *Parliamentary Journal*. John also gave peer reviewed academic paper presentations all over the world in Europe (Great Britain, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, France and Spain to name a few), Asia, North America and Africa. He has had published articles in the *Hegel Yearbook* and the Heidelberg University's *Argumentation Studies*. He also had an article published in AIP's book entitled *Readings in Parliamentary Law*.

John twice received the Phifer Award presented by the Commission on Parliamentary Practice for outstanding scholarship in the area of parliamentary procedure.

**College Service**

John served as term as Department Head of the Liberal Studies Department; was chairperson of the hiring committee for an Academic Vice-President; served two terms on the Faculty Senate; served a term on the Tenure and Promotion Committee and was the department's Pre-Law Adviser. John was a principal developer of the Society and Technology Degree at Montana Tech. John also served a term on the Faculty Service Committee at Montana Tech. Through his work with the Senate and faculty union, John was a tireless advocate for faculty governance and a staunch defender of faculty rights.

**Community Involvement**

John gave well over 120 presentations to community groups during his career at Montana Tech, including presentations on: Burnout, Conflict Management, Crisis Communication, the U.S. Constitution, Civility in Public Discourse, to name a few.

John also conducted training programs for state, local and federal agencies such as EPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality as well as hospitals and corporations.

John was also a certified instructor for the International Right of Way Association.

**Environmental Work**

John as served on the board and as officer in the following environmental organizations:

MEIC (Montana Environmental Information Center in Helena. John served multiple terms as president and as a member of the board of directors. Was a regular contributor to *Down to Earth*.

Clark Fork Coalition in Missoula board of directors.

CTEC—Citizens Technical Environmental Committee—Served as President, Vice-President, and board member.

Citizens for Labor and Environmental Justice—Served as President, Vice-President, and board member.

John has given two presentations on effective citizen involvement and environmental justice to EPA community involvement conferences in Seattle and Boston. He has served on board and commissions appointed by EPA and local government dealing with environmental concerns in Butte. He authored the EPA brochure text entitled *Be Contaminant Smart* which was published under the auspices of EPA and has been distributed to over 14000 individuals in the area. John was instrumental in shaping the EPA remedies for Butte and Silver Bow Creek in ways that incorporated citizen input and that resulted in better clean-up of toxic waste.

**Newspaper Editorials**

Over 40 editorial columns for *Montana Standard*, *Helena IR*, *Missoulian Butte Weekly*

**Classes at Arts Chateau**

John taught three well attended, free community classes at the Arts Chateau in Butte in philosophy and political theory.

The above represent a summary of John's performance at Montana Tech. More detailed information could be furnished upon request.

Based on his accomplishments in teaching and service, the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Department of Montana Tech is pleased to nominate Professor John Ray as Professor Emeritus of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Montana Tech together with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereto appertaining.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

None