

September 18-19, 2024

ITEM 214-2015-R0924

Request Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor and Department Head Emeritus of Political Science upon David Parker; Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor David Parker from the faculty in the Department of Political Science at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University and the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

David Parker received a B.A. from Indiana University in 1995 and doctorate in political science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2004. He began at Montana State University in 2008 and received tenure at in 2012 and was promoted to full professor in 2019. Professor Parker wrote two monographs on Congress, co-authored an edited volume on the importance of using archival materials in political science research, and published 20 peer-reviewed articles and chapters primarily focused on legislative oversight and representational relationships in the U.S. Congress, the House of Commons, and the Scottish Parliament during his 16-year career at MSU. His work was awarded the 2010 Alan Rosenthal Prize, honoring the best article or book by a junior scholar with potential value for legislative practitioners, and most recently he was named a Fulbright Specialist for 2021-2025 and was at the University of Nottingham in 2022 for three weeks where he lectured on American and British politics.

During his time at Montana State University, Professor Parker shared his scholarship on Congress, representation, and America's political institutions through extensive media outreach, including scores of media appearances and interviews with local, state, and national news outlets, especially during elections years. He has been featured in The Washington Post, The New York Times, NPR's Morning Edition, PBS's Frontline, and the Sundance award-winning documentary Dark Money, and served for many years as a political analyst for the Montana Television Network. He often appeared as co-host with political reporter Mike Dennison on "Face the State" on Sunday mornings on televisions throughout the state. He was the founder and director of MSU's Treasure State Poll, which conducted statewide pre- and post-election polls in 2018, 2020, and 2022. Parker served as Department Head from fall of 2019 until his retirement this year.

In the classroom, Professor Parker often drew upon his experiences working on campaigns during the 1995-1996 cycle to demonstrate the linkages between theory and praxis to students. During this time at Montana State, he taught thousands of students in Introduction to American Government, as well as upper division courses on Congress, the American Presidency, congressional campaigns, political parties, and British Politics. It was through study abroad that Professor Parker found his true passion, however, and counts it as his most treasured experience at MSU, having led four study abroad trips to the United Kingdom where he introduced Bobcats to the Tube, Arthur's Seat, and fabulous curry shops through Britain. He received the Faculty Award for Excellence on three occasions and the College of Letters and Science Teaching Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Students in 2023 in large part for his devotion to undergraduate research. During his career at Montana State, he published peer review articles with five MSU undergraduate students and mentored two students who have gone on to doctoral studies in political science.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon Dr. Parker the rank of Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years into the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None