

Faculty Senate Agenda

November 17, 2021

- I. Welcome and Minutes (<https://www.mtech.edu/facultystaff/facultysenate/minutes/index.html>)

Approvals for November 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Introduction of Faculty Senators and other Attendees

Action Items

- II. CRC Items:
 - a. CSCI, SME, Change CSCI 210 and CSCI 255 order on worksheet (110421-2)
 - b. CSCI, SME, Change Pre-reqs for CSCI 255 (110421-3)
 - c. NSRG, CLSPS, change NRSRG 425 to online course (110421-4)
- III. Emeritus Faculty Recommendation for Matt Donnelly
- IV. Emeritus Faculty Recommendation for Henry Gonshak

Informational Items

- V. None at this time

Discussion Items

- VI. Nominee for Alumni Board
- VII. Student Attendance Policy (see below)
- VIII. Research Salaries (see pdf document).
- IX. Communication at Tech (new app, weekly updates)
- X. Changes to Moodle/other online tools
- XI. Activities/Goals for the academic year:
 - a. Review of Faculty Staff Handbook
 - b. Faculty Satisfaction Survey
 - c. Combined Faculty Senate/Staff Senate Meeting
 - d. Strategic Planning
 - e. Other?
- XII. Other Items

III. **To:** Montana Technological University Faculty Senate

From: Bryce Hill PhD PE EE Dept. Chair Montana Technological University

Subject: Professor Emeritus Status for Professor Matthew Donnelly; Montana Technological University

THAT: Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Matthew Donnelly from the faculty of Montana Technological University, the faculty wish to express their appreciation for his 13 years of dedicated and valued service to the Department of Electrical Engineering, Montana Tech, the Butte Community, and the State of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION: Matthew K. Donnelly earned a BS degree in 1981 in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Arizona, an MS degree in 1988 and a PhD in 1991 both in Electrical Engineering from Montana State University, and an MBA in 2004 from the University of Washington. Prior to joining Montana Tech in 2009, Dr. Donnelly worked some 20 years in private industry and government research. This includes time at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as a senior researcher, Sustainable Energy Technologies as a chief technology officer, and Alpha Technologies as a vice president. Dr. Donnelly joined Montana Tech in 2009 as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2011, and to Full Professor in 2017.

Montana Tech's Electrical Engineering Department is widely known as one of the best high-voltage power-engineering programs in the USA due, in large part, to Dr. Donnelly. He developed much of the power curriculum and helped develop a robust externally-funded research program. Dr. Donnelly is a rigorous teacher and demands hard work from his students. In return, he goes to great lengths to help students succeed. The quality of his instruction and research is reflected in the success of the EE graduates.

Dr. Donnelly's research and scholarly activities at Tech are truly impressive. He is a national expert in power-system operations. Over his career at Tech, he has established close collaborative relationships with federal research institutions (USDOE National Labs), and with private industry such as the NorthWestern Energy and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories. Since joining Tech, he has had many grants funded and advised several graduate students, been awarded 3 patents, and 17 refereed publications (many co-authored with students).

With this recommendation goes sincere gratitude for 13 years of invaluable teaching, service and research. To Dr. Donnelly: congratulations and best wishes for the future.

IV.

October 13, 2021

ACTION ITEM: Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Literature upon Dr. Henry Gonshak; Montana Tech of the University of Montana

THAT: Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Henry Gonshak from the faculty of Montana Tech of The University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his years of dedication and valued service to the institution and the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, and the State of Montana by recommending the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION:

Henry Gonshak earned his BA in English with Distinction in 1980 from Vassar College, and his MA in English from the University of Denver in 1985. He received his PhD in English in 1988 from the University of Denver, where he concentrated on pre-20th century American literature. He earned distinction on his doctoral oral exams on 18th, 19th, and 20th-century American and British literature.

He came to Montana Tech in 1989 as Assistant Professor, after working two years as an instructor at Virginia Polytechnic and State University. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1994 and then promoted to full professor in 1997. He is retiring in December 2021.

Since coming to Tech, Henry taught numerous courses in literature. Including British Literature, Introduction to Fiction, Montana Literature, World Literature, Shakespearean Drama, and Sports Literature. He has also contributed numerous writing courses, including College Writing I and II, Creative Writing, and Fiction Writing. His upper-level courses have been on the Holocaust (one of his major research topics) and Gay and Lesbian Studies.

He was awarded a Rose and Anna Busch Endowed Professorship for outstanding work in teaching, research, and service. Since being awarded it in 2000, it has been renewed every five years and he currently holds it at present.

Henry has written a number of pieces for various publications, but his major work is the book *Hollywood and the Holocaust*, by Rowman and Littlefield in 2015. This work studies Hollywood films about the Shoah from the World War II era to present, from classics like Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* to more recent works like Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* and Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*. Henry examines the question of what criteria should be used when judging Hollywood films and makes the controversial assertion that comedy can be an effective means of portraying the Shoah. He explores why Hollywood seems so fascinated with the subject of the Holocaust, and calls on the American movie industry to make more nuanced films. This includes about other historical genocides, and about the Holocaust itself, since it encompassed what Primo Levi's called an ethical "grey zone," devoid of clear-cut heroes and villains.

Henry also has been a frequent contributor to the Montana Professor and the Montana Standard, serving in the role of a public intellectual and as an assistant editor of the former publication. He has serving extensively on campus committees as well, including chairing the Faculty Senate and sitting on the Collegiate Evaluation Committee and the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.

With this recommendation, we thank Dr. Henry Gonshak for 33 years of outstanding service to Montana Tech and request to confer the title of "Professor Emeritus of Literature."

V. In light of certain circumstances, I think it would be in everyone's best interest to establish a limit on excused absences for students.

Would you be willing to ask the Deans at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting to discuss with their faculty on how many absences, excused or not, would be allowed before it fundamentally alters to their courses.

Ideally, I would like to establish a universal guideline on the number of absences that should be excused by disability, medical, etc. before it unfairly impacts the academic standards of the course and the students' academic performance.

I won't disclose much, but for a bit of context, we have a student who has missed quite a lot of classes and assignments. Much more than a handful. So much so that it will negatively impact the student's grades for this semester and we are not sure how to salvage it.