

September 13-14, 2017

ITEM 176-2005-R0917

Request for authorization to confer the title of Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology on John E. Sherwood, Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of John E. Sherwood from Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System, and the people of the State of Montana.

EXPLANATION

John E. Sherwood is a Professor in the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department, Montana State University, Bozeman. He received his BS degree in Zoology from the University of Vermont, an MS in Microbiology from Colorado State University, and a PhD in Microbiology from Michigan State University. After a post-doc at the DOE Plant Research Laboratory at Michigan State, he started work as an Assistant Professor at Montana State University in 1988 in the Plant Pathology Department and then in the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department when that department formed in 1998.

Dr. Sherwood established a research program investigating the molecular genetic mechanisms leading fungi to be pathogenic on plants. The major focus of the research was the genetics of sexual reproduction in *Ustilago hordei*, the cause of barley covered smut, since mating is required for that fungus to be pathogenic. He also collaborated with a number of colleagues who were able to take advantage of his expertise in genetics and molecular biology to apply to their own research systems. His research has been well funded over the years, primarily with competitive grants from the USDA, the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, and the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab initiative.

Early in his career, Dr. Sherwood was very active in the MBRS, MARC, and AIRO programs, training both undergraduate and high school Native American students in his lab. He has been Associate Editor for the journal *Phytopathology*. Dr. Sherwood taught a graduate course on the Genetics of Plant-Microbe Interactions and an accompanying lab focusing on the use of molecular techniques in plant pathology research. He was one of a small group of faculty that worked to establish the multi-departmental, multi-college undergraduate program in Biotechnology and was the lead for the Plant Biotechnology option, during which time he advised a large number of undergraduate students in said program. He continued to teach the Plant Biotechnology capstone course until his retirement. In 2001/02, Dr. Sherwood served as chair of the MSU Faculty Council, serving on numerous committees including the University Planning, Budget, and Analysis Committee (UPBAC) and search committees for the MSU Provost, Athletic Director, and Deans for the Museum of the Rockies and the College of Agriculture. In 2003, Dr. Sherwood was named the department Head of the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, where he served with distinction for over 14 years. During that time, the department grew from 24 to 30 tenure track faculty, including the newly established Endowed Chair for Plant Sciences. The number of female tenure track faculty increased from one to eleven and diversity was increased by the hiring of four international faculty. The number of graduate students increased from 18 to 37. Dr. Sherwood was also involved in the writing and implementation of the NSF ADVANCE grant at MSU.

Dr. John Sherwood has served Montana State University well by combining his expertise in molecular Plant Pathology and biotechnology with his skills in research, teaching, service, and administration for the

betterment of Montana agriculture, the College of Agriculture, the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, and Montana State University.

For these, and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer upon John E. Sherwood the rank of Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None