

SECTION: 6
DATE: December 8, 2022

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

HONORARY EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents grant Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service to Dr. Richard (Rick) Sambrook, who provided energetic leadership in his role as department head during his 12 years of service to Eastern Michigan University.

During his time at the University, Dr. Sambrook was the Department Head of Geography and Geology. His contributions to the department include advancing the joint international geographic information science (GIS) program between Eastern Michigan University and Wuhan University in China, raising the visibility of the department in the American Association of Geographers (AAG), and participating as a lead reader in the AP Human Geography Summer Reading programs.

He was a proactive department head who devoted a great deal of time and energy to the Department of Geography and Geology and provided a stable and productive environment for those who worked under his leadership.

STAFF SUMMARY

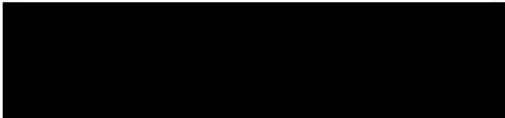
According to University policy, retiring employees who have served the University for fewer than 15 years may be granted Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service. Candidates for honorary emeritus status must have a significant number of years of service and a record of meritorious performance in one or more of the following: (a) a substantive record of scholarly achievement commensurate with national or international standards within the specific discipline, (b) a record of outstanding teaching and or educational contributions, (c) clear evidence of service to the University beyond the normal expectations, (d) clear evidence of exceptional institutional leadership, advancement of the University or extraordinary service to students.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.



University Executive Officer
Rhonda Longworth, Ph.D.

11/7/22
Date



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Academic and Student Affairs

EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS RECOMMENDATION

The Department or School of Geography and Geology recommends the awarding of **Emeritus Faculty Status** for the following retiring/retired faculty member:

Name of Faculty Member: Richard Alan Sambrook

Current Status/Rank at EMU: Full Professor - Retired

Date of Hire at EMU: 07-07-2009 Retirement Date: 08-31-2021

Number of Years at EMU: 12 (Minimum of 15 years of service required)

Degree(s)/Institutions Doctoral: Michigan State University, 1992

Masters: Michigan State University, 1980

Baccalaureate Michigan State University, 1974

Please Attach a Brief Statement of Support to this 2 page application

Emeritus Faculty status is contingent upon the approval of the Board of Regents. Candidates, once approved, will be awarded Emeritus status after their official retirement date. This information will be kept on file in the Provost's Office.

Yichun Xie, Steven LoDuca 10/7/2022
Recommended by (please print) Date

[Redacted] 7 Oct. 2022
Department Head Date

[Redacted] 11/7/22
Provost Date

[Redacted] 10.07.22
Dean Date

Date Submitted to Board of Regents

Please continue to page 2 of this application.

To: Dean Heller, Provost Longworth, and Regents of Eastern Michigan University
RE: Nomination of Dr. Richard Sambrook for Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service
From: Dr. Yichun Xie, Professor of Geographic Information Science & Geography
Date: October 5, 2022

I am happy to nominate Dr. Richard ("Rick") Sambrook as a candidate for Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service at Eastern. I have known Rick since he joined Eastern in 2009, and I was a member of the search committee that recommended inviting him as my department's Department Head. Although at the time of his retirement in 2021 he had served at EMU for less than the 15-year minimum required for Emeritus Status, I believe his contributions are more than sufficient for him to be awarded this status on an honorary basis.

Rick's energy and enthusiasm for serving as the department head for Geography and Geology never ceased to amaze me throughout his 12 years of service at EMU. Among his devoted efforts to building a solid department of Geography and Geology, I want to focus on three significant contributions he made to the Geography and to the Geographic Information Science (GIS) programs at Eastern.

The first contribution was to advance the joint international geographic information science (GIS) program between Eastern Michigan University and Wuhan University in China. In the early months of his department head position at Eastern, he met with the GIS faculty members involved in the joint GIS international program and got familiar with the program. Then he met with the students who enrolled in this program. Afterward, he made housing and airport pick-up arrangements for the new Wuhan University students who joined the program. Moreover, he visited Wuhan University in early November 2014, met with the candidate students, answered their questions, and helped Wuhan University recruit a new cohort of students for the Joint GIS Program. I firmly believe that his extraordinary efforts recruited the largest cohort of Wuhan University students for Fall 2015.

In addition, Dr. Sambrook visited Guizhou Minzu (Ethnic People) University during the same trip. He made recruitment presentations at Guizhou Minzu University and drafted a collaboration agreement with Guizhou Minzu University for EMU.

The second contribution was that Dr. Sambrook raised the visibility of our department in the American Association of Geographers (AAG). He organized a display board for several consecutive years and brought a group of undergraduate and graduate students to attend and present at AAG annual conferences. During my tenure at Eastern for almost 30 years, Dr. Sambrook was the first department head who actively encouraged the students to participate and present at AAG conferences.

The third contribution was that Dr. Sambrook attended the AP Human Geography Summer Reading programs, organized for many years by the AAG. He played a lead reader role in organizing the Reading Programs and significantly contributed to advocating Human Geography among geographers.

In summary, Dr. Sambrook was a decorated department head who devoted his entire energy and time to service in the Department of Geography and Geology. His efforts helped raise our department's visibility to the broader geography community in the USA and beyond. Therefore, I strongly nominate Dr. Sambrook for Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service at Eastern. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this nomination.

September 29, 2022


Dear Dean Heller, Provost Longworth, and Regents of Eastern Michigan University,

I am writing in support of Dr. Xie's nomination of Dr. Richard ("Rick") Sambrook to be considered for Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service at EMU. Rick retired at the end of the Winter 2021 semester, after being the Department Head of our department for 12 years. During that time, he was a highly valued University and departmental colleague.

In his letter of nomination, Dr. Xie constructs a strong argument as to why Rick should be considered for this honor. I concur with every point. To that I will add that Rick's contributions as a stabilizing force in the department are also highly commendable. In this regard, the Department of Geography and Geology is a complex and diverse entity. It houses five undergraduate majors (Geography, Geology, Earth Science, Geographic Information Science [GIS], and Urban & Regional Planning [URP]) and three graduate programs (GIS, URP, and Historic Preservation), all of which must vie for resources from the same limited departmental allocation. To compound matters, faculty members in the various programs tend to be from very different academic backgrounds (sciences and humanities, respectively), such that they often don't speak the same "language" and end up talking past each other. Rick was fully aware of the challenges that awaited him in this regard when he accepted the position of DH, and he met them head-on. In particular, he was extremely proactive, devoting enormous amounts of time and energy to holding Program Meetings, many times each semester, with each and every program. This is something that had not been done, at least to this degree, by any of the previous DH's. In addition, he strove to be extremely transparent and fair. That might sound easy on paper, but it takes considerable skill and effort to achieve this in practice. Overall, Rick did a masterful job in a challenging position and, as a direct result of his efforts, the 12 years I spent as a faculty member under his leadership were among the best and most productive in my entire 33-year career at EMU.

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the nomination of Dr. Rick Sambrook for Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service at EMU.

Sincerely,


Steven T. LoDuca, PhD
Professor
Dept. of Geography and Geology