

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 3
DATE: June 16, 2022

RECOMMENDATION

HONORARY EMERITUS STATUS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents grant Honorary Emeritus Status for Meritorious Service to John Donegan, who provided exceptional leadership in his role as Vice President of Operations and Facilities for over 13 years and while serving as a University consultant following retirement.

John continuously devoted himself to initiative after initiative throughout his career. During his time at the University, John was an advocate for developing strong relationships with other Universities throughout the state of Michigan and strengthening our relationships with local Government Agencies. He activated membership of MiAPPA (Michigan Association of Physical Plant Administrators). It is because of John's enthusiasm for getting involved that joint projects were developed with MDOF, WATS, Washtenaw County Parks and DPW of Ypsilanti resulted in the Board-to-Board (B2B) trails on and around campus, the Washtenaw and Oakwood intersection, and the HAWK system on Washtenaw. John was involved in the renovations of Mark Jefferson, Pray-Harold, Sill Hall, Strong Hall, Indoor Practice Facility, REC/IM, Co-Generation Installation and the EMU/IHA Wellness Center, just to name a few. John had a commitment to reaching beyond campus to bring visibility to EMU through his involvement while encouraging similar participation among his employees.

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

June 16, 2022
Date



**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
EMERITUS STAFF STATUS RECOMMENDATION**

The Department/Office of _____ recommends the awarding of **Emeritus Staff Status** for the following retiring/retired staff member:

Name of staff member: JOHN DONOGAN

Title upon retirement: VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS & FACILITIES

Date of hire at EMU: JUNE 2007 Retirement date: NOVEMBER 2020

Number of years at EMU: 13 (Minimum of 15 years of service required)

Please complete the following information on the retiring staff member for whom you are submitting this recommendation. This information is needed for inclusion in the EMU Faculty/Staff/Student Directory.

Home address: [REDACTED]

Home telephone: () -

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Name of spouse: KAREN

Degree(s)/institutions/year: Baccalaureate: _____

Masters: _____

Doctoral: _____

Please attach 2 letters of support to this application

[REDACTED] 3-31-22 [REDACTED] 3/31/22
Recommended by/ Date Recommended by/ Date

[REDACTED] 3-31-22
Department Head and/or Supervisor Date

[REDACTED] 3/31/2022
Executive Council Member Date

[REDACTED] 3/31/22
President Date

June 16, 2022
Date Submitted to Board of Regents

After the Executive Council member signs, please forward this form and letters of support to: CFO, 101 Welch Hall. Upon approval of the President, the recommendation will be sent to the Board of Regents. Emeritus Staff status is contingent upon the approval of the Board of Regents. The above information will be kept on file in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

E | **PHYSICAL PLANT**

March 28, 2022

Mike Valdes
Office of the CFO
101 Welch Hall

Dear Mr. Valdes,

I writing to you in support of John Donegan for honorary emeritus status. John has served as the overall executive administrator for the Physical Plant since 2007 and ended with overall responsibilities that also included the Convocation Center, Pease, Rec IM, Dining Services, Event Planning, and the Student Center. Within his division John had responsibility for over 200 full-time employees with hundreds of student employees at any given time.

John devoted himself to initiative after initiative throughout his career. His body of work, to name just a few, includes: The Mark Jefferson Addition and Renovation, Pray-Harold Renovation, Indoor Practice Facility, Strong Hall Renovation, Co-Generation Installation, Rec IM Renovation, EMU/IHA Wellness Center, and Sill Hall Renovation. John worked hard to envision and implement a campus wide "pattern language" program, which included what has now become known as "Donegan rocks," so that folks recognize and are familiar with the physical and visual experience of campus. John was committed to reaching beyond the campus to bring visibility to EMU through his involvement in industry organizations and other affiliations while encouraging similar participation among his employees.

John embraced ideas from the practical to the innovative. He was pulled in many directions but he remained consistent in his mission to improve the overall appearance of campus. John made an impact. Today, campus looks beautiful. John brought with him a larger than life persona that carried over into all aspects of his life. Outside of work John enjoyed golf and spoke often of his family and was particularly proud of the growing number of grandchildren added as each year passed.

Considering all the marvelous work accomplished during John's tenure here at EMU, receiving honorary emeritus status is something I know John would deeply appreciate and feel grateful for.

E | **PHYSICAL
PLANT**

Sincerely,



Scott Storrar

Executive Director of Facilities Planning, Maintenance & Construction
875 Ann Street, Physical Plant



March 29, 2022

Eastern Michigan University

I am writing you today in support of John Donagen's appointment to honorary emeritus status for his service as Vice President of Operations and Facilities. When John started his career at Eastern, he made it known that before he accepted the position, he came to campus with Karen to look around. He wanted to see what he was getting into. John saw a well-established campus with good bones, but it was rough around the edges and worn in the middle. John saw the potential and thus started his career at EMU.

John wanted the grounds of the university to reflect an identity for the campus. The steps for this process were developed over countless hours walking and driving around the campus, all leading to a new set of standards created for the landscaping of the campus. These new standards encompassed fencing, signage, sidewalks, wayfinding, landscape designs, exterior lighting, campus land use, retaining walls etc. The new standard being reflective of Southeastern Michigan called for the use of rocks and boulders (instead of concrete) in the landscape around the campus and has ended up creating the phrase "Donagen Rocks" which has been added to the campus vocabulary.

John was an advocate for developing strong relationships with the other Universities throughout Michigan and strengthen our relationships with our local Government agencies. The Physical Plant administration became an active member of MiAPPA (Michigan Association of Physical Plant Administrators). This relationship was critical during the start of the Pandemic, where the State University Physical Plants maintain communications on product and equipment testing, that saved us all a lot of time and money. The B2B (Board-to-Board) trails on an around campus, Washtenaw and Oakwood intersection, and the HAWK system on Washtenaw are all joint project around the campus developed with MDOT, WATS, Washtenaw County Parks, and DPW of Ypsilanti. During John's career at Eastern, all the projects around campus both big and small are too numerous to list.

John was passionate about the appearance of the campus, and he should be proud of all that was accomplished under his leadership.

Sincerely

Dieter Otto, Executive Director Physical Plant Operations, Custodial, and Grounds



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Honorary Emeritus Staff

June 16, 2022

John Donegan



**Vice President of Operations & Facilities
Physical Plant
13+ years of service**