

SECTION: 4
DATE:
December 7, 2023

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION

EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Board of Regents grant Emeritus Status to two (2) former faculty.

Faculty:

John Gray Cooper, Professor, Department of Communication, Media & Theatre Arts from 1993 to 2023 who retired after 30 years; and Beth Henschen, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science from 1998 to 2023 who retired after 25 years.

STAFF SUMMARY

The Collective Bargaining Agreement between Eastern Michigan University and the Eastern Michigan University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) provides that a faculty member who has served the University for at least fifteen (15) years may be nominated for Emeritus Faculty Status upon retirement.


The nominations for these individuals have received the support of the Department Head or School Director, the Dean of the College, and the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

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.

11/13/23

Date

**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
EMERITUS FACULTY RECOMMENDATION
December 7, 2023**

FACULTY:

John Gray Cooper

Professor, Department of Communication, Media & Theatre Arts
(30 years)

Doctorate	Bowling Green State University
Masters	University of Michigan
Baccalaureate	Miami University of Ohio

Beth Henschen

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
(25 years)

Doctorate	The Ohio State University
Masters	The Ohio State University
Baccalaureate	Ashland College



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Academic and Student Affairs

EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS RECOMMENDATION

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

Name of Faculty Member: Beth Henschen

Current Status/Rank at EMU: Retired / Associate Professor

Date of Hire at EMU: January 1998 Retirement Date: August 2023

Number of Years at EMU: 25 (Minimum of 15 years of service required)

Degree(s)/Institutions Doctoral: The Ohio State University

Masters: The Ohio State University

Baccalaureate Ashland College

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.

[Redacted] 10/24/23
Recommended by (please print) Date

[Redacted] 10/24/23
Department Head Date

Dean Date

[Redacted] 11/3/23
Date

11/14/2023
Date Submitted to Board of Regents

Please continue to page 2 of this application.

Dear Provost Longworth,

Kindly accept this letter that nominates Dr. Beth M Henschen for Emeritus Faculty status. Dr. Henschen has been affiliated with EMU since 1999. During her tenure with the department and university, she significantly contributed to student growth and success, faculty development across the institution and the overall well-being of the Department of Political Science.

I will speak briefly here to some of the strengths in Henschen's record to the three aspects of academic life that typically mark faculty success. With respect to her teaching, perhaps most impressive are the teaching awards that she won for her tireless dedication to meeting student needs in and out of the classroom. In 2006 she was honored to be named Favorite Professor by one of EMU's top scholar athletes. She won the same award in 2013. In 2012 was named Most Valuable Professor by the Women's Basketball team. In 2015 was honored with the William Fennel faculty mentor award. And in 2004 she was presented with the "You Make a Difference Award" by the first-year students. By any measure, this represents remarkable success.

During her time as a member of the faculty, she won the Ronald Collins teaching award, she was twice recognized by students in the "Thank an Eagle" program, and she was featured as "Exceptional Member of the Honors Community" by the honors program in 2016. That particular recognition was presented to her during a Mid-American Conference football game in 2016. Moreover, as you know, our data have shown her to be the most popular professor in our department and certainly our enrollments will suffer to her retirement. I should also note here that during her time in our department she taught 12 different courses.


In her service to the department and college she directed the Political Science Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, for seven years. She won several grants for chapter activities from the Society's national office in Washington and was instrumental in sending many of our students off to law school and graduate school. She served more than two terms on CAC when none of her colleagues

would step up in shoulder that responsibility. She also served on search committees, awards committees, and was always the person that was leaned on by department heads when something needed to be done by faculty, and none were willing to step forward.

Just a word about her research activity. Her co-authored textbook was first published in 1999 as *America at Odds*. That title appeared in five editions, (and five shorter *Alternate* editions) between 1999 in 2010. The publisher, Wadsworth (and then Cengage) then changed the title to *GOVT* and it has been published in 11 editions since 2010 under that title. Of course, the success of that book has put EMU's name in front of hundreds of political scientists. Throughout her time as part of our department, Beth has routinely presented papers at conferences and has a wonderful record turning those articles into refereed articles.

Awarding Professor Henschen the Emeritus status might continue EMU's tradition of highlighting those who make a substantial contribution to the profession, students and university. I appreciate your consideration.

Thanks for your consideration,


Barbara Patrick

Professor & Head (I)

Department of Political Science

Eastern Michigan University



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Academic and Student Affairs

EMERITUS FACULTY STATUS RECOMMENDATION

The Department or School of Communication, Media & Theatre Arts recommends the awarding of **Emeritus Faculty Status** for the following retiring/retired faculty member:

Name of Faculty Member: John Gray Cooper

Current Status/Rank at EMU: Professor

Date of Hire at EMU: 9/1/1993 Retirement Date: 8/31/2023

Number of Years at EMU: 30 years (Minimum of 15 years of service required)

Degree(s)/Institutions Doctoral: Bowling Green State University

Masters: University of Michigan

Baccalaureate Miami University of Ohio

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.

Dr. Shanna Gilkeson 9/21/2023
Recommended by (please print) Date

[Redacted] 9/29/2023
Department Head Date

[Redacted] 09.29.23
Dean Date

[Redacted] 11/3/23
Provost Date

11/14/2023
Date Submitted to Board of Regents

Please continue to page 2 of this application.

Date: September 21, 2023
To: Rhonda Longworth, Provost and Head of Academic Affairs
From: Shanna Gilkeson, Assistant Professor, Digital Media, Cinema, and Journalism
Subject: Emeritus Status for Professor John Gray Cooper

Dear Dr. Longworth,

I am writing to you today to offer my full support of Dr. John Cooper for emeritus status.

I first had the privilege of working with Dr. Cooper when my undergraduate program began in 2009. As a non-traditional student who had dropped out of college 20 years prior, it is no exaggeration I was nervous about coming back due to all the changes in both the discipline of digital media and higher education in general. With Dr. Cooper's support and mentorship, I went from being someone who thought I would never finish college to finding myself on a successful academic and professional career.

Dr. Cooper's effectiveness in teaching went beyond his friendly, approachable manner, his sense of humor, and the way he made information accessible and understandable through contemporary examples – all of which made him popular among his students. He took the time to get to know the people he was teaching, and when they were excited about something, he did everything he could to nurture that interest. For example, when I was an undergraduate, I expressed my interest in teaching. Dr. Cooper supported me by recommending me for acceptance into both EMU's ENGL 479 Peer Tutoring class and Holman Success Center's Supplemental Instruction Leader (SIL) program. When I worked as the SIL for his CTAT 145 Intro to Film Appreciation course, he gave me the opportunity to cultivate my teaching skills by occasionally allowing me to present material to his students. Dr. Cooper also encouraged me to develop my research and presentation skills by mentoring me for my first Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Symposium in 2012.

These experiences helped me to grow my confidence as well as my skills at a critical time in my life, and Dr. Cooper's interest and involvement in my academic and professional development did not end when I finished my undergraduate studies. As a direct result of his mentorship, I went on to pursue a Master's Degree in Written Communication here at EMU, as well as my Ph.D in Media and Communication at Bowling Green State University, both with his recommendation and support. During my master's program, Dr. Cooper allowed me to fulfill an elective credit by supervising my independent study in gender representation on television. He has also been available to me over the years when I needed teaching and research advice.

In short, it is no exaggeration to say that Dr. John Cooper has had a direct impact on my success, and I would go so far as to say it would not have been possible without him. I can think of no one more deserving of emeritus status.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Shanna Gilkeson
Assistant Professor
Digital Media, Cinema, and Journalism