

Attachment #1

To: Millersville University Faculty Senate
From: Department of Sociology/Anthropology
Date: 16 March 2011

Subject: EMERITUS RESOLUTION FOR DR. HENRY FISCHER, former Professor of Sociology and former Director of the Center for Disaster Research and Education

Whereas: Dr. Hank Fischer, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Disaster Research and Education (CDRE), with a profound and abiding categorical commitment to teaching and first-rate scholarship, as well as service to the University community, equally served on the faculty in the Sociology and Anthropology Department from 1989 until 2008; Professor Fischer then retired from the University in January of 2008 to pursue other professional interests after 19 years of service to Millersville University; and

Whereas: Dr. Fischer taught an array of courses for the Sociology Department; this includes foundational sociology courses and advanced-level courses in quantitative data analysis, research methods, and courses on the sociology of disaster and terrorism to name a few; and, Dr. Fisher designed and taught a range of graduate-level courses for the University's highly noted master's program in emergency management, a program that he pioneered in 2007; and, as director of the CDRE, Dr. Fischer worked with more than 15 CDRE faculty colleagues, supervised many of the program's research assistants, and through the sociology of disaster course, pioneered on-line education here at the University; and, admired by his students, Dr. Fischer was nominated in 2004 for Who's Who among Teachers in the U.S.; and,

Whereas: Dr. Fischer distinguished himself as an active scholar, publishing seven books, most notably his 1994 *Behavioral Response to Disaster: Fact Versus Fiction & Its Perpetuation*, in addition to more than 35 manuscript articles, 5 reports for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, as well as several research planning materials to the U.S. Department of Defense, many curriculum articles, and a score of abstract articles, film, book, and website reviews; and, Dr. Fischer also presented a litany of papers at professional meetings across the world globe; and,

Whereas: Dr. Fischer, with research focusing on behavioral and organizational response to disaster, impact of media reporting on behavioral and organizational response to disaster, factors impacting on mitigation adjustment, and planning and response challenges encountered in terrorism, also utilized his sociological research, writing, and other analytical gifts to advance social science research and policy work in the area of disaster research, serving as a manuscript reviewer for stellar professional journals, including the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*, in addition to serving as editor of *Unscheduled Events*, *Contemporary Disaster Review*, and the on-line journal for the International Research Committee on Disasters; and,

Whereas: Dr. Fischer served the University community with appointments and activities too numerous to list, but which encompassed work with students across socio-economic levels; and, Dr. Fischer participated actively in state, regional, and national levels of professional organizations, assisted community organizations at the local, state and federal level, and made public appearances on local television stations and for national media/TV outlets, including CNN and MSNBC regarding issues and policy practices on matters that pertain to environmental disasters; and, in a few words, Dr. Fischer's commitment to service at MU and his profession was second to none; and,

Whereas: Dr. Fischer dedicated his professional life to student development and life-long learning, including encouraging a host of students to pursue advanced education at the master's and doctoral levels, including the University of Delaware; and, as Dr. Fischer advanced student learning by working with students on grant-funded research projects, including their participation in first-hand accounts and reports pertaining to national and international areas of disaster research, he also pioneered on-line education and a master's program in the area of emergency management in his position as director of CDRE in particular; there, Dr. Fischer also became a nationally and internationally- known scholar and educator in disaster research and its practices; and, at the same time, he continued to work with students and faculty alike in dozens of field projects, including working with underrepresented student populations in his area of expertise; and, Dr. Fischer was consistently invited to speak at community functions and organizations ranging from campus programs to worldwide agencies and institutions; and, in summary, Dr. Fischer was an exemplary professor, serious-minded scholar and public advocate, especially when it came to severe challenges to our environment, and a civically engaged advocate, with his roots steeped in his teaching, research, and writings within the traditions of sociological thought and practice as well as the values and import of a liberal arts education in higher education;

Therefore, Be It Resolved: That Dr. Henry Fischer be granted the distinguished title and honor of Professor Emeritus of Sociology.