

President Judd's Remarks On Myron Henry (June 6, 2008)

This may be one of the most difficult awards ever. Myron Henry is retiring.

In his history here at USM Myron began as Provost, advanced to full time faculty status, and has subsequently served as an AAUP local officer; the President of Faculty Senate (twice); a member of SACs accreditation teams; and importantly, a member of the AAUP team that presented an important report on the post Katrina management of universities and colleges in New Orleans, a document which is sharply critical of a number of decisions made by administrators in the wake of the storm.

But this abbreviated list can not capture the essence of a figure who has played such a key role – in fact the leading role, although he would not accept that characterization – in the struggle to preserve the ideal and the fact of shared governance. When he left the Provost's Office Myron Henry did not retreat. Instead, he devoted his talent and experience to serving his peers and our university.

There are many things I could – we all could say – about Myron. But I want to focus on one attribute – his kindness. This is a man whose kindness has led him to devote much of his life to good works with charitable organizations. This is a man whose kindness set standards for civility in an period of often uncivil behavior; whose kindness expresses itself as respect even for those with whom he disagrees. This is a man whose kindness led him to understand that people work well together when they are treated well; when they are consulted; when they have a voice in determining the nature of their work and its quality – and that is the essence of good governance.

Myron, this award comes from the senate for your service – but most importantly, for the example you set for us all of wisdom, vision, and unfailing kindness to others. We hope that as you continue in you new life, this award will serve to remind you of the deep respect, affection, and appreciation of your colleagues.