Professor Vo Van Toi

The members of the Department of Biomedical Engineering would like to take this opportunity to express their deepest appreciation of Professor Vo Van Toi's contributions to Tufts University. Professor Vo Van Toi has been a wonderful colleague and educator and also the visionary and founder of the Biomedical Engineering program at Tufts.

Before joining Tufts in 1984, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Biomedical Engineering Center in the MIT/Harvard Division of Health Sciences and Technology. At Tufts he was first affiliated with the Engineering Design Department, moving then to the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, where he formed the Biomedical Engineering program and the combined Engineering Medical Degree and Engineering Dental Degree. Professor Vo was instrumental in establishing the Department of Biomedical Engineering in 2002. His research in the design of ophthalmic instruments including a device for treating the common condition of dry eye led to his establishment of a small company, Technological Ophthalmic Instruments.

His style of teaching at Tufts was legendary, consistently earning high marks from his students for his teaching skills and his concern for the success of every student. His dedication to the application of biomedical engineering for humanitarian purposes was clear. For example, in his course on introductory biomedical engineering the class project, colloquially known as Toi's Toys, was to design toys to help children with disabilities reach their full potential. His practical approach to teaching was also exemplified by his worked with a group of students to build a fully functioning solar car in 1990. They entered the car in the 1990 "American Tour de Sol," a 234-mile solar car race from Montpelier, Vt. to Boston, placing third. In recognition of his outstanding teaching, he received the Lillian and Joseph Leibner Award for Distinguished Teaching and Advising in 2004.

In 2004 he was appointed by President Bush to the Vietnam Education Foundation which is a federal agency whose mission is to strengthen ties between Vietnam and the United States through educational and scientific exchanges. In 2007 he received the honor of being named its executive director. Professor Vo has played a key role in establishing biomedical engineering activities and programs with Hanoi University of Technology, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Can Tho University. He will continue with these activities as a full professor at International University, which is a part of Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He will be the Chair of the new BME department at the University and advise on the development of relations with international universities.

We wish him all the best as he embarks on this exciting new stage in his career.

Be it resolved that this resolution be spread on the minutes of the faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering and that a copy be handed to Professor Vo.