RESOLUTION
ON THE RETIREMENT OF
ARTHUR UHLIR, JR.

Adopted by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

May 16, 1994

The faculty of Electrical Engineering, with the faculty of Arts and Sciences, hereby record their appreciation for their retiring colleague, Professor Arthur Uhlir Jr. Tufts University has benefitted much from his contributions during his twenty-four years of service with us.

Professor Uhlir has distinguished himself as an educator, an engineer and an administrator. He earned his first degree and, while working at the Armour Research Foundation, his second, both from the Illinois Institute of Technology, in Chemical Engineering. He then completed his education at the University of Chicago, with another master's degree and, as an A.E.C. Predoctoral Fellow, a Ph.D. degree in physics.

Professor Uhlir then joined the staff of Bell Laboratories, one of the premier research institutions in the world at that time. There, from 1951 to 1958, he did pioneering work on the application of semiconductor devices to microwave circuits. He is particularly well known for this seminal work on the varactor diode for which he was elected Fellow of the IEEE in 1967.

In 1958 Dr. Uhlir became Director of Research at Microwave Associates. By 1969, when he left the company, he had risen to Group Vice President for Engineering and a Member of the Board of Directors.

Early in his career Arthur Uhlir appreciated the possibilities of using the digital computer to automate microwave semiconductor tests. In 1969 he worked to implement these ideas at Computer Metrics where he served as Director of Research and a Member of the Board. He remained on the Board until 1973.

Art Uhlir began his academic career in 1970 when he joined the Tufts faculty as Chairman of Electrical Engineering. It is well for us that he did so when he did. A few years later, with changes in the national climate, the chairmanship of an electrical engineering department would not be considered an attractive opportunity. From 1970 to 1975, among the most difficult years the department faced since the 30's, he provided firm, forward-looking leadership, reworking our undergraduate curriculum, nurturing our graduate program, and laying a firm foundation for the Department's future.

In a response to the conditions of the time, the Administration asked Professor Uhlir to serve as Acting Dean of the College in 1973. He was appointed Dean in 1975 and held that position until 1980 by which time enrollments in the College had returned to normal and our crisis had passed.

In his years since returning to the Department, Professor Uhlir has been an innovative educator, an active researcher, and a model mentor to the chairmen who followed him. He is Director of our Microwave Certificate Program, which he founded through a grant from Bay State Skills Corporation in 1982, and created many of our graduate offerings in the microwave area. In the true Tufts spirit, he has devoted much energy to our undergraduates, teaching engineering sophomores digital circuits and providing our juniors with an unforgettable course in circuits. He has continued to make contributions to the techniques for automatically testing microwave devices and has passed on to researching methods of using microwaves to predict lightning. Above all, he has given his time, wisdom, and knowledge, freely and unaffectedly, to his students and colleagues.

An inventor of note, a prolific author and researcher, a tested administrator and a respected teacher, Arthur Uhlir is the true renaissance man of science. A practical man who is patient with those who are impractical; a distinguished man who is generous with those less gifted; a man of grave aspect but great natural kindness, our Department oracle. His retirement diminishes the richness of our faculty fabric. He was honored by the scientific community in 1992 when he was elected Fellow of the American Association of Science. We now add our approbation.

He may be retiring from the Tufts faculty, but there can be no doubt that he will not be retiring from the enterprises of thinking, creating, and educating.

I move that this resolution be spread across the minutes of this meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and that a copy be sent to Professor Uhlir.

For the Faculty,

Denis Fermental, Chairman
Department of Electrical Engineering