RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
PROFESSOR LEWIS EDGERS

May 14, 2014

The members of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering wish to extend our appreciation and recognize the contribution of our colleague, Professor Lewis Edgers, who will retire in August 2014. Lew is a true “Bostonian”, having been born in 1944 and raised in Dorchester and Mattapan. He graduated from Boston Latin in 1962, and then earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Tufts in 1966. He then continued to pursue his passion for engineering and research across the Charles River, earning a Master of Science degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1967 and 1973, respectively. While working on his doctoral degree at MIT, Lew served as an instructor of Civil Engineering at Tufts. Upon completion of his degree in 1973, Lew was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at Tufts University. Lew was quickly promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1975, which was followed by his promotion to full professor in 1989.

Lew’s career can be best appreciated by considering the breadth of his activities, which extend from leadership roles at Tufts and professional organizations, undergraduate and graduate teaching, to his scholarship and professional engineering activities. Lew has held a number of administrative positions during his time at Tufts University, including chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, from 1992 to 1998, and Associate Dean in the School of Engineering, from 2004 to 2012. While serving as associate dean, Lew oversaw undergraduate curriculum development initiatives and graduate student recruitment and education. In addition, Lew was responsible for coordinating preparations for the American Board of Education and Technology (ABET) accreditation of seven degree programs offered in the School of Engineering.

As a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.), Lew maintained an active presence in the Civil Engineering community throughout his career. For example, he studied the effects of the Boston Central Artery construction on two adjacent landmark buildings, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and One Financial Center. This initiative integrated engineering practice with his teaching and research programs at Tufts. Lew served as president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers (BSCE), director of The Engineering Center Education Trust, and as governor for the Foundation for Professional Practice of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). In recognition of his academic and professional contributions, Lew was elected as a fellow and a life member of ASCE.

Lew’s research activities focused on geotechnical engineering, with connections to related disciplines. He has conducted geotechnical engineering research in a number of areas including soil behavior, foundation engineering, landfill decomposition, excavation induced ground movements, rainfall induced landslides; and alternative energies such as geothermal and offshore wind. Lew is especially proud of his more than thirty-year association with the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), one of the most pre-eminent research organizations in his field. He has published more than fifty technical reports and refereed journal articles and conference
proceedings. Lew has supervised over thirty undergraduate research projects and has advised over forty M.S. research projects and theses. His teaching contributions span a wide range of civil engineering courses, including Statics and Dynamics, Computer Applications in Geotechnical Engineering, Capstone Design, Foundation Engineering, and Advanced Soil Mechanics. The students know Lew as a rigorous instructor who provides a challenging and rewarding learning environment. Despite the demanding nature of his courses, Professor Edgers consistently receives outstanding course evaluations. In recognition of his teaching excellence, Professor Edgers received the Henry and Madeline Fisher Award in 2004, which is given to the “Engineering Teacher of the Year”. This year Lew received the “Faculty Member of the Year” award from the ASCE student chapter at Tufts.

Lew’s wife of forty-five years, Karen, has been a strong and supportive partner throughout his career. Their children, Geoff and Liz, are both Tufts graduates, and both Karen and Lew look forward to spending more time with their children and four grandchildren in the years ahead.

I encourage you to share your appreciation and gratitude to Lew for his more than four decades of contributions to Tufts University. On behalf of the faculty of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, I respectfully request that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Faculty of Arts, Science and Engineering, and that a copy of this resolution be provided to Professor Lewis Edgers.

Kurt Pennell
Professor and Chair, CEE