Resolution on the Retirement of
Marjorie Hahn, Department of Mathematics

Professor Marjorie Hahn graduated with honors from Stanford University in 1971 and she received her Ph.D. at M.I.T. in 1975 from Richard Dudley, one of the top probabilists in the country. She came to Tufts as Assistant Professor in 1977 after a two-year position at Berkeley. She received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in 1981, after only four years, and she was promoted to Professor in 1987.

Molly’s scholarly achievements are exemplary. She has written 63 articles in a range of fields from probability to stochastic differential equations, many of which are in the top journals. Her high stature and respect in her field is illustrated by her election in 1985 to be Fellow of the Institute for Mathematical Statistics. She has organized 20 seminar series, conferences, workshops and sessions. She has been associate editor of the Annals of Probability, one of the premier journals in the field, and she has been on committees of the Institute of Mathematics Statistics and the National Research Council.

Our department is grateful for Molly’s fundamental contributions to the department and our graduate students. She has mentored more PhD students than anyone else in the department – an astonishing 14 PhD and 10 Master’s students from Tufts, as well as two Ph.D. students who were based at MIT. In fact, her final two Ph.D. students defended this month.

Her students all note that she encourages them and is like a supportive coach. Molly is so valued as a graduate student advisor that she received the inaugural Faculty Mentoring Award from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 2008. She single-handedly developed our probability courses for undergraduates and graduate students, and for many years, she has been our only faculty member in this important field.

Speaking personally, I benefited from her mentorship when I arrived at Tufts as a new Ph.D. in a different field from hers. She found common ground for us to work together, and we published an article that bridged both fields. As she does with all her mentees, she invited me to conferences, arranged talks, and introduced me to other researchers.

Molly is known for her positive spirit and sensible, practical, and thoughtful advice. She has mentored several young probabilists, including a current Norbert Wiener Assistant Professor Patricia Garmirian. Along with Sabir Umarov and Kei Kobayashi, who formerly taught at Tufts, she has just finished a book on Brownian motion. To quote Prof. Umarov:

“As a probabilist, Molly made great contribution to Probability Theory not only by her research but also bringing up many new probabilists-experts. Her students, now becoming Ph.D.s., are continuing and expanding her ideas and traditions. She is a great TEACHER ...[she] always carries happiness to all who are surrounding her!”
Molly is not only an excellent mathematician; since middle school, she has been a superb competitive tennis player. She has won many tournaments, and in 2006, she was elected to the United States Tennis Association New England Hall of Fame. She was such a promising tennis player as a young woman, that she was encouraged to play professionally. We are all pleased she decided on math, instead.

For the entirety of Molly’s contributions to the Tufts and the mathematical research communities, Molly has been awarded Professor Emerita status. We, the faculty of the Department of Mathematics, are grateful for her many and varied contributions to the field of probability and to the Tufts community, and wish that her retirement years are full of tennis, math, family and friends.

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 Marjorie Hahn.