Resolution on the Retirement of
George Norman, Department of Economics

With this resolution, the members of the Department of Economics join with the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering to recognize the career of our colleague and friend, George Norman.

George was born in the coal-mining village of North Berwick, Scotland about 40 kilometers northeast of Edinburgh. He was not expected to go to school beyond the primary level but, encouraged by a young teacher, he applied and gained admittance to Dumferline High School, about 26 kilometers northwest of Edinburgh. From there, it was on to Dundee University and then to King’s College, Cambridge, where he received his Ph.D. in 1975. Along the way, he worked regularly at the UK Postal Telecommunications (now British TeleCom). George’s education then received an unexpected additional lesson in academic remuneration. For upon leaving the postal agency and taking a Lectureship at the University of Reading, he endured his first and only pay cut.

From Reading, George went on to become the Tyler Professor of Economics at the University of Leicester and, as punishment, Head of the Department the following year. He was then lured to his native Scotland by the University of Edinburgh, but again, had to pay the price of being Chair.

George came to Tufts in September, 1995 where he plunged wholeheartedly into the life of the University. In a very short time, he took on the Directorship of the Tufts Graduate Program. This was followed by his service as a member and later chair of the Tenure & Promotion Committee, followed by three years on the Executive Committee, and then membership on the Faculty Advisory Board, which he also eventually chaired. Along the way, he continued his prolific scholarship. He is now the author of some 70 peer-reviewed journal articles and 15 book chapters, and also editor, co-author, or author of some 19 books (not counting the 5 subsequent editions of one of these). George’s scholarship was recognized in 1998 when he became the first holder of the Cummings Family Chair of Entrepreneurship and Business Economics.

George was also a terrific talent in the classroom at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. He taught a wide variety of classes, all very well. Not surprisingly, he won the Lerman-Neubauer Award for Outstanding Teaching and Advising in 2002. In his last several years at Tufts, George responded to the need to get senior Economics faculty in our introductory classes by taking on the teaching of Economics 5, our Economics Principles class that averages a bit over 300 students each term. As a result, literally thousands of students have had George as their guide to a place not only of sight and sound but of mind, a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of (rigorous) imagination . . . a place some of you may know by another name but that we in Braker Hall call economics.

George loved his work, his colleagues, and his students. He gave his time and insight freely and was a valuable collaborator with fellow economists both within the Department and around the globe. He was also a tireless advocate for student rights and students’ welfare.

George enjoyed and still enjoys the ballet, opera, every Star Wars film, and of course single malt scotch, Lagavulin in particular. Most of all, he loves his wife, Margaret, whom he happily credits for all his success. Their first New England winter was the then record-breaking, 108-inch snowfall of 1995-96. Some of his colleagues secretly worried that first winter might induce George and Margaret to return to Europe. But George said it would take more snow than that to persuade him to leave. And when would that ever happen? Twenty years later we found out with the 111-inch winter of 2014-15.
So, we had George here at Tufts for a wonderful two decades. And now he and his beloved Margaret are returned to the UK and the East Anglian village of Cotton. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and countless students to whom George gave so much, we send them our best wishes. On their behalf as well, I move that this resolution on the retirement of George Norman be spread on the permanent record of this faculty and that a copy of it be sent to him.