Resolution on the Retirement of Professor Tony Smith, Department of Political Science
3 May 2016

The faculty of the Department of Political Science express our profound gratitude and deep affection for our colleague, Tony Smith, the Cornelia M. Jackson Professor of Political Science, on the occasion his retirement after forty-six years of distinguished service to our department and Tufts University.

Tony’s intellectual contributions and professional accomplishments are formidable. He is a prolific scholar of international relations, comparative politics, and United States foreign policy. Tony is the author of eight books and the editor, co-editor, and co-author of three other books. Princeton University Press will publish his most recent book, Why Wilson Matters: The Origins of American International Liberalism and its Crisis Today, in late 2016. He authored several dozen journal articles and book chapters. Over the years, his research has examined the origins of US, British, and French imperialism; communist theories of state legitimacy in the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba; the role of ethnic interest groups and of democracy promotion in US foreign policy; and more recently, the crisis of liberal internationalism in the aftermath of the Iraq war. Tony poses “big and important” theoretical questions, but always with careful attention to historical context and policy implications.

Tony won competitive fellowships and grants from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and the Twentieth Century Fund. He is a lifetime member of the CFR and a senior faculty fellow of Harvard University’s Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies. Tony has been a visiting professor at Landívar University (Guatemala City), Paris II (Graduate Faculty of Law) rue d’Assas, and l’Institut d’Etudes Politiques (Aix-en-Provence).

Tony’s warmth, humor, and generosity to both students and faculty colleagues are legendary. He has been a dedicated and caring teacher of generations of Tufts students. He was the one founding faculty members of the International Relations (IR) Program and served on its executive committee for many years. In recent years, he taught upper level courses drawn from his current research on the crisis of liberal internationalism, democracy promotion and human rights in US foreign policy. He is the exemplar of the scholar-teacher model.

A native Texan, Charles Anthony Smith, earned a bachelor of arts from the University of Texas at Austin in 1964. The following year, he earned a master of arts from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He earned his PhD from Harvard University’s Government Department in 1971. He joined the Tufts faculty as an assistant professor in 1970, earned tenure and promotion to associate professor in 1976, and was promoted to full professor in 1982. Since 1990, he has been the Cornelia M. Jackson Professor. Tony served as chair of the Political Science Department from 1996 to 1999 and as acting chair in 2003.

Along every dimension Tony Smith has been a valued colleague whose professionalism and dedication enriched our school and the Department of Political Science. We are deeply indebted to Tony for his many contributions to our department, Tufts University, and the political science
discipline. We wish him continued health and happiness with his beloved husband, José David Ovalle, their family and friends. It is a bittersweet pleasure to wish Tony a most wonderful retirement.