RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
PROFESSOR RICHARD M. VOGEL
May 18, 2016

The members of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering extend our appreciation and recognize the contribution of our colleague, Professor Richard Vogel, who will retire in August 2016. Rich was born in New York City in 1953 and graduated from Walt Whitman High School, in Huntington, NY in 1971. He attended the University of Virginia and earned his BS in Engineering Science and Systems in 1977, followed by an MS in Environmental Science in 1979. After working two years as a hydrologist for Dufresne-Henry Inc. in Vermont, he moved to Cornell University where he received a PhD in Water Resource Systems Engineering in 1984. In that same year, 32 years ago, Rich joined Tufts University as an instructor and then as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 1990, and to Full Professor in 1998.

Upon his arrival at Tufts in 1984, there were no courses or programs in the area of hydrology or water resources systems engineering, thus Rich initially taught courses in engineering mechanics, statistics, engineering economics and engineering management. In the late 1980’s Rich introduced new undergraduate and graduate courses in the area of hydrology, hydraulics, environmental statistics and water resources systems engineering. He was responsible for the creation of the MS and PhD programs in Water Resource Engineering, which later became what is now our graduate Environmental and Water Resources Engineering program. In 2000, Rich along with his close colleague Paul Kirshen, was one of the co-founders of the Tufts Graduate Program in Water: Systems, Science and Society (WSSS). Over the period of 2007-2009 he served as director of the WSSS program, as well as the program director for the Water Area of the Tufts Institute of the Environment (TIE). Rich also served on numerous elected University committees, including two terms on the Tenure and Promotion committee, the Budget and Priorities committee, the Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid committee, and the Committee on Committees, for which he served a term as chair.

Rich has had an extremely productive and rewarding career, and maintains an active research program in the areas of hydrology, water resource systems, environmental statistics and natural hazards. He has published over 130 refereed journal articles and over 12 book chapters, which have received nearly 4,000 citations resulting in an h-index of 37 according to the Science Citation Index database. Rich is widely recognized in his field as evidenced by numerous awards including the John W. Olver Leadership Award (2011), Julian Hinds Award (ASCE, 2009) and a Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize (ASCE, 1995). In addition, Rich has received several ‘best paper awards’ for his journal articles, and since 2008 he has been invited to give the keynote lecture at eight major conferences. Rich has been the committee chair of 62 MS and 16 PhD students. Many of his former graduate students now hold faculty positions ranging from research professor, to assistant, associate and full professor. Several of his students also hold prestigious positions in the national research program of the U.S. Geological Survey; positions that are analogous to faculty positions.

Following Rich’s retirement in August 2016, he plans to maintain an active research program. In September 2016, he will receive an Arthur Maass–Gilbert White Fellowship, which
will enable Rich to continue his research relating to the field of water resources management, and to integrate his research findings into the federal guidelines for water resources design, planning and management. 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 Richard M. Vogel.

Kurt Pennell, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor and Chair, CEE