Resolution for the Retirement of

Sol Gittleman

Let it be known that our Sol Gittleman is not only the longest standing Provost in the United States, but the hardest working and most energetic. Sol Gittleman is someone that all Tufts alumni remember with great fondness. The students know his passion. The faculty knows his scholarly commitment. He is an administrator who teaches and, to students and his fellow faculty members, he represents the Tufts experience at its best.

Whether through his writing on Frank Wedekind, Baseball, or Yiddish literature, he has left his mark. His Yiddish literature course is packed with students who come to understand the literature and the culture that came out of the Shtetl into the suburbia that is frequently their own terrain. With his strong understanding of the immigrant experience, he has become one of our first ethnic theorists, a writer and teacher who paved the way to the multicultural studies he has always supported.

Then there is baseball. There is always a long waiting list for Sol’s course on Baseball that he offers for the freshman writing requirement. If only he could teach all the students who want to get into the course.

Sol is also a fighter. As someone who has found herself occasionally on the opposing side, I can testify to the relentless and pugnacious energy that he demonstrates in the toughest battles. But as we all know, Sol’s fighting spirit is invaluable when he employs it for our benefit. Sol really goes to bat for us to support new and struggling programs that need carefully constructed support. The faculty knows Sol as an administrator who has nurtured the programs that might, otherwise, have had a difficult time getting off the ground. He is the “go to” guy to get help get funding for faculty and students. He is the person to whom students and faculty plead their case to get funds to travel to Bolivia or Vietnam to do the professional and personal research that would not otherwise get done. So many members of the faculty know the privilege of working with students renewed, perhaps even reborn by research that frees them to look into their own backgrounds, their own ethnicities, and their own birthrights. Over the years Sol has generously supported programs that would otherwise have been overlooked. Tufts would not be the same without his efforts.

To Sol, we wish a future at Tufts in teaching and research as rich as the past that he has left at Tufts University as Provost extraordinaire. The game is definitely not over.

On behalf of the faculty of AS&E, I move that this resolution on the retirement of Provost Sol Gittleman be spread on the minutes of the faculty and that a copy of the resolution be given to him.