Resolution on the Retirement of
Jean Herbert, Associate Dean

Her colleagues in the Office of Undergraduate Education join with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to record our gratitude and our admiration for Associate Dean Jean Herbert on the occasion of her retirement after 37 years of service.

Jean Herbert joined the adjunct faculty of Tufts’ English Department in 1980, teaching expository writing while completing her Ph.D. in English at the University of London. After completing her doctorate in 1982, Dean Herbert continued to teach writing and supervise senior theses. She became Director of the Academic Resource Center in 1985, and at the same time, served as Advising Coordinator, overseeing Orientation and pre-major advising. In 1989, Dean Herbert was named Associate Dean, overseeing first the senior class, then in 1994 the first-year class, and finally in 2006, the first portion of the alphabet of Liberal Arts students across all four years.

Dean Herbert has been personally responsible for helping countless students graduate from Tufts: students who suffered serious illness and other setbacks; students who felt homesick or out of place; students who otherwise would have given up or not known how to access the resources to earn their diploma. Dean Herbert has been a tireless advocate and unwavering resource for students with disabilities, students returning after many years to complete their degrees, and students with an interest in the arts and humanities. Over the past four decades, she has served on innumerable faculty committees and working groups, and has initiated dozens of programs and processes to better support undergraduate students. Many of her initiatives are still in place, decades later.

In 1989, when she was first appointed a dean, Jean also took on one of her most important roles, that of Director of REAL Program (Resumed Education for Adult Learners), which supports undergraduate students over the age of twenty-four. For the past 28 years, Dean Herbert has shown utmost dedication to non-traditional students – many of them veterans or transfer students from local community colleges, some of them working full-time or raising children. In addition to being a warm, encouraging mentor, Dean Herbert has served as an able guide, helping non-traditional students find a pathway toward a Tufts degree. Dean Herbert is still an innovator: she actively goes to conferences to learn how to better support veterans coming to college on the GI Bill after service in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the past few years, she has created more support programs for incoming transfer students and has overseen the combined-degree programs with SMFA and NEC, initiating the student-curated Art in April art exhibit in Dowling Hall for the past three years.

Over the past four decades, Jean Herbert has enriched the Tufts community and its traditions in ways profound, subtle, and lasting. She has accomplished so much while remaining one of the warmest, kindest, and merriest souls on campus. Dean Herbert has always combined generosity, warmth, and gentleness with robust knowledge – a combination tremendously empowering for students and greatly admired by her colleagues. Over the years, she has served the University well, and commands great respect from the faculty of Arts & Sciences, from students, and from devoted alumni.

On behalf of the Office of Undergraduate Education, be it resolved that this resolution on the retirement of Jean Herbert be spread upon the minutes of the faculty of Arts and Sciences and that copies of it be sent to our honored colleague.