Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Maxwell Freeman

Maxwell M. Freeman died September 5, 1986 in Madison. He was 85 years old. Professor Emeritus Freeman had been associated with the University of Wisconsin from 1926 when he began work on his doctorate until his retirement in 1968.

Professor Freeman was born in Burgin, Kentucky, August 11, 1901. He took his BA and MA degrees from the University of Kentucky in 1925 and 1926 respectively and then began work on his PhD at Madison. During his graduate study he taught English classes for the Extension Division at centers in Janesville, Stevens Point, and Wausau. Upon completion of the doctorate in 1937 Maxwell Freeman joined the Department of English at what was then Milwaukee State Teachers College.

Professor Freeman accepted the chairmanship of the Department in 1940 and held that post until 1959, through the years when the institution was Wisconsin State College-Milwaukee and until three years after the creation of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

As one of the "committee of thirty" Professor Freeman was one of the architects of merger, and he continued his active role as a builder of the new University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as a member of the standing committee on graduate education established by the Coordinating Council on Higher Education and as Associate Dean of the UW Graduate School for the UWM campus. In the latter capacity he served, in effect, as the first dean of graduate studies on the Milwaukee campus.

Initial estimates of the Committee of 30 called for a UWM graduate enrollment of about 300 by 1965. In fact, when UWM's
Graduate School was established by Regent action in 1965, its enrollment was 1,659. Professor Freeman's final contribution to the Graduate enterprise at UWM was a history of the first dozen years, written in 1967. He recorded with pride that enrollment in The Graduate School had continued to grow to 2,537 in 1967—about half of its 1987 total.

Professor Freeman was a dedicated scholar and teacher of English Renaissance literature, specializing in Shakespeare. He also taught Victorian poetry. Many teachers of English in the Milwaukee area fondly remember his incisive comments about literature and his personal interest in them as they prepared to enter the classroom. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Mu Alpha, and active in several professional societies: AAUP, of which he was chapter president from 1954-56, the Modern Language Association, Conference on College Composition and Communication and the National Council of Teachers of English. He served as president of the English Club of Greater Milwaukee in 1944-45.

He is survived by a daughter, Joan, who is curator of anthropology at the State Historical Society in Madison and by two grandsons.

Maxwell M. Freeman holds an honored place in the history of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. As the University continues to strive for excellence as a graduate institution, Professor Freeman's pioneering administrative service will be remembered with gratitude and pride.

Ralph Aderman
George Keulks
James Sappenfield