Memorial Resolution
for
Avis L. Kristenson, Professor Emerita

Avis L. Kristenson came to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Social Welfare as Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in June, 1971. She resigned as Associate Dean in August, 1972 but continued teaching and serving the School, University, and profession until her retirement from UWM in 1980.

Avis received her A.B. from the University of Omaha. She received her M.A. from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration in 1942 and was employed there as a Field Instructor from 1943-1948. For the following ten years she was on the faculty of the University of Nebraska Graduate School of Social Work where she achieved the rank of Associate Professor. In 1958 she joined the faculty at Rutgers University Graduate School of Social Work and in 1962 the Smith College School for Social Work. Avis taught full time at Smith for several years and then part time while working on her doctorate at the Columbia University School of Social Work. There she received a Doctor of Social Welfare degree in 1968 with a dissertation on "Administrative Relationships of Professional Schools of Social Work in the United States to Their Universities or Colleges." Avis then served on the faculty of the Marywood College School of Social Work as Professor and Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs for two years before coming to UWM in 1971.

Throughout her career Avis was active contributor to the social work profession. She served as president of the Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers 1957-1958. She served on the N.A.S.W. national board and chaired the N.A.S.W. Committee on Public Relations from 1971-1974.

Avis Kristenson's contributions to the Council on Social Work Education, the national accrediting body for social work programs, included: Committee on Faculty and Teaching Materials, Task Force on Development of Teaching Materials in Child Welfare; Committee on Education for Administration; Committee on Faculty and Teaching Materials; and Chair of the Advisory Board to the Project on Innovative Teaching and Learning. She served on an Advisory Committee for two volumes on social work administration published by C.S.W.E. In 1961 C.S.W.E. published Avis' report on Concepts of Prevention and Control: Their Use in the Social Work Curriculum and in 1970 her co-authored book, The Professional School and the University: The Case of Social Work.

For the Child Welfare League of America Avis served on the National Committee on Teaching Materials and as vice chair or program committee member for several C.W.L.A. regional conferences. She published in the C.W.L.A. journal and in Social Casework and the
Journal on Social Work Education.

As Associate Dean in the School of Social Welfare at UWM Avis was Coordinator of the Graduate Program in which position she especially endeavored to relate the School's activities to other UWM units and community programs. These interdisciplinary efforts included, among others, the Spanish Outreach Center, the Schools of Nursing, Architecture and Education, and programs for Native Americans. Her teaching in the School of Social Welfare included the introductory and advanced social treatment methods courses, a child welfare course, and health policy and issues courses. She is particularly remembered for integrating mental and physical health conceptualizations in her syllabi.

Outside the classroom Avis is remembered as a lover of classical music and as a dog lover. Her cocker spaniel was an exuberant and faithful companion.

When ill health forced Avis Kristenson to retire, she moved to Kentucky to be near a niece. She lived quietly there until her death in 1993.

Adrienne Haeuser
Cynthia Jumes
Elam Nunnally