MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
FOR
Professor Robert E. Norris

Professor Robert E. Norris came to the Milwaukee State Teachers College in 1932 as instructor and head of the Mathematics Department. From that time until his death on March 20, 1971, at the age of 66, he served the Teachers College, later the Wisconsin State College, and still later the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in many ways, always devotedly and well.

Bob was born in Illinois, where he attended the then Northern Illinois State Teachers College for two years and later the University of Illinois. At the latter he took the B.A. Degree in 1926 and the M.A. in 1928. He served as an assistant in Mathematics at both Bradley Institute and the University of Illinois before coming to Milwaukee. At the Teachers College he soon became a valued member of the faculty, serving, for example, as chairman of the faculty of the Area Curriculum, an experimental general education program carried on for the five-year period between 1938 and 1943. In 1946 at the retirement of former President Frank E. Baker and the elevation of J. Martin Klotsche to the presidency, Bob became Dean of Instruction. He served as dean and continued as chairman of the Mathematics Department until the formation of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1956. In the absence of President Klotsche in the spring of 1953 he also served for some two months as Vice-President.

As Dean and as a trusted member of the faculty, Bob had a leading part in the preparation for the merger which created UWM in 1956. He served as a member of the so-called Committee of Thirty (ten from the faculty and administration of each of the University of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin Extension Division in Milwaukee, and the Wisconsin State College) and as a member of its executive committee, which, with related sub-committees, hammered out the details leading to the merger. After the merger, demonstrating his usual modesty, he sought no administrative post, but was appointed Dean of Student Affairs for the newly created institution. In this position he served in a distinguished way to coordinate admissions and records, counseling and guidance, financial aids, medical services, placement, and student activities. He resigned his deanship in 1966 to return to full-time teaching in the Mathematics Department. At that time, in reply to Bob's letter of resignation, Chancellor Klotsche said, "Your contribution has been a very substantial one, not only at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, but also during the many years that you served the Wisconsin State College. There are few persons who have been as loyal and as devoted to this institution as you have been."

Bob then turned to teaching courses in his field, in which he had the responsibility of working with and supervising a number of teaching assistants. He also served more than once as summer chairman of the department.

Robert Norris was a person of unusual integrity. Because of his even temper and his objectivity, he was an excellent committee chairman and he was often called upon to serve. Perhaps most important in this area was his chairmanship for several years of a group of associate and assistant deans which acted to advise the UWM Administrative Committee, of which he was of course a member. Bob was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, scholastic fraternity, and vice president of the UWM Chapter in 1968-69. He also held memberships in the Wisconsin Educational Association, the National Education Association, the Mathematical Association of America, and the American Mathematical Society.
No comment on Robert Norris would be complete without mention of his fine musicianship, his love of good music and his interpretation of it in playing the organ. He served for years as organist at Plymouth Church and after a recess of some two years, as organist at First Church of Christ Scientist--Whitefish Bay, where he was practicing when he was stricken. His fine collection of records provided music in his home, as did his own playing of the piano.

Those who knew Bob Norris feel very deeply the loss of a good friend, an able administrator, a fine teacher, and a person with a charming sense of humor. In the almost 39 years of his tenure very few persons have contributed as much to the growth and quality of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and its predecessor institutions as did Robert E. Norris.

Committee members:

Maxwell M. Freeman, Chairman
J. Martin Klotsche
Herman Kluge
Burton Potterveld
Oral Robbins
Charlotte Wollaeger
Donald A. Woods