Resolution 2006-9. On Appreciation for the Service of Judith Welch Wegner as Chair of the Faculty, 2003-06

This resolution in honor of Judith Wegner is a chorus of the many voices of the Faculty Executive Committee members who have worked with her.

During her three years as Chair of the Faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Judith Wegner's distinguished leadership has made a tangible difference in the life of our community, and she has skillfully represented the University throughout the State of North Carolina.

Judith understands the mission of a public university and has shown extraordinary commitment in promoting the best possible research, teaching, and service at Carolina. She has broad interests that extend to all facets of the life of the mind, and she seeks to assure that, as students and teachers, we achieve our highest aspirations through our shared learning experiences.

Judith's forte is communication and engagement. There has been little concerning faculty, staff and students in which she has not been interested. She has promoted engagement with the administration, student body, legislature, the Boards of Visitors, Trustees and Governors, the Faculty Senate at North Carolina State University, and the Town of Chapel Hill. She has been tireless and thoughtful in her effort to be inclusive of all people and points of view. She has an extraordinary memory for the members of our community. She can make critical connections among them to serve the better purpose. She has her fingers on the University's pulse, and she hears, interprets, and reconciles different opinions, resulting in creative ideas and novel proposals. She is relentless in the pursuit of information and research to develop a knowledge base to strengthen her ideas and proposals, and she advocates forcefully and courageously for their potentially positive outcomes.

Judith is nurturing, whether in providing snacks for the members of the Faculty Executive Committee, food for thought, or sustenance for the faculty, staff and students — such as her efforts in the areas of recruitment and retention, benefits, salary, curricular reform and enrichment, and advocacy for graduate students in the mission of the University.

Judith has played a central and important role in so many other areas affecting all our lives: campus-based tuition policies, establishment of the University Ombuds Office, improvements in the state health plan, our discourse on academic freedom, enrollment growth and funding, the survey and analysis of faculty retention, the parking plan, reallocation of logo receipts for merit scholarships, the Ford Foundation grant to explore the issue of Difficult Dialogues, revision of the Student Code of Judicial Governance — the list is enormous. Many of these issues were contentious and controversial, but Judith never flinched, always serving as a mediator and the voice of reason.

THEREFORE,

With deepest of respect and gratitude for all that she has done; with awe that we can claim her as a colleague and friend; in order to recognize and celebrate her leadership; and to thank her for her incredible service to the University; We, the Faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, on this 21st day of April, 2006, present to Judith Welch Wegner this Resolution of Appreciation.