

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
GEORGE K. HERBERT**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Professor George K. Herbert, School of Social Work, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM
GEORGE K. HERBERT**

George K. Herbert, J.D., Ph.D., was a Professor at The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work from 1970 to 1998, Associate Dean from 1974 through 1990, and acting Dean 1978 to 1979. Dr. Herbert taught in the administration and social policy areas, making use of both his doctorate in social work and law degree. He was a meticulous teacher and administrator who sought increased levels of professionalism among social workers and agencies with clear goals and measurable effects. Through the School's Continuing Education Program, George became the legal resource for state and private agencies and created a course on social work and the law.

Dr. Herbert is also remembered for providing long-term service to the University Federal Credit Union (UFCU). Tony C. Budet, President/CEO of the University Federal Credit Union, recalls Dr. Herbert's service to UFCU:

There's a special place in my heart for Dr. George K. Herbert, as he chaired the committee that was charged with securing a new CEO following retirement of former CEO E. Burton Eubanks in 2000 following twenty-five years of service in that role. While Dr. Herbert was most certainly professionally accomplished as a Professor of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin, what I will most remember are his integrity and character, his exceptional ability to unify and build consensus and, perhaps most impressive, his beautiful and most impactful interpersonal skills. To know Dr. Herbert was to love the man.

Dr. Herbert served on UFCU's Board of Directors 1971-97, serving as Chairman three times: 1973-75, 1976-77, and 1980-85. He subsequently served on the Supervisory Committee during the 1997-2004 period. When he stepped down from UFCU volunteer service, Dr. Herbert had served this cooperative for thirty-one of its sixty-eight years.

This cooperative and the University were blessed through the work and friendship of such a dedicated and impactful leader.

Miriam Nisenbaum, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers/Texas Chapter, states:

Dr. George Herbert became the second President of the NASW/TX chapter board in July 1977, and ended his term in June 1979. George was a pioneering social worker in Texas. He was the chair of the committee to get social workers certified in the early 1980s and served on the committee to get social workers licensed in Texas in the 1990s. He also worked to have NASW/TX have its first full-time employee, Jim Payne, Executive Director in 1977. George worked tirelessly to expand membership and to plan for NASW's future. He was a valued mentor and colleague to all who knew him via the Association. His legacy will live with the members he influenced and assisted to become active leaders in NASW/TX. George's picture

with his term of office hangs proudly on the conference room wall at NASW/TX chapter office in downtown Austin, Texas.

One of George's well-known students, Elliott Naishtat, who served for twenty-six years as a member of the Texas legislature, remembers his experience with Dr. Herbert:

I wonder where I would have ended up were it not for George Herbert's influence, mentoring, and guidance to MSSW students like me at the UT Austin School of Social Work. When I was a second-year student studying organizing and planning, Dr. Herbert was instrumental in arranging a block field placement for me with the Legislative Budget Board of Texas. I worked in the Board's Office of Welfare Research and got my first exposure to the planning and implementation of health and human services programs at the state Capitol level. This truly opened my eyes! When I took on the task of writing a Master's Report (no longer required), it was George Herbert who served as my thesis advisor and guided me through the lengthy process of drafting, writing, and rewriting a 273-page document entitled, "The Evolving Concept of Citizen Participation: An Historical Study with a Case Analysis of Urban Renewal and the Blackshear Residents Organization." Throughout my twenty-six-year tenure in the Texas House of Representatives, I always focused on getting people, especially low-income people, meaningfully involved in the planning and implementation of programs that affected their lives and the lives of their communities. I thank Dr. Herbert for instilling in me the importance of citizen input and civic engagement. Finally, as a student of George Herbert, I learned to understand and appreciate the vital role of social policy and planning in relation to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations throughout the state. This became the focus of nearly all of my legislative initiatives and achievements during my thirteen sessions in the Texas Legislature. I thank Dr. Herbert for opening my eyes and for all he did for me and for countless other students.

Dr. Martha Williams Dean of the School of Social Work at UT Austin. from 1981 to 1991 states that Every family and every organization needs a George. George Herbert was a kind, gentle, supportive, and positive person who was always steady, reliable, and a friend like no other. George was wise, true, and full of good vibes. If only we could have a world full of Georges, this planet would be a better place. We will all miss George's guidance, wisdom, and good heart. George was truly a great guy!

Colleagues at the School of Social Work such as Professors Clayton Shorkey, Diana DiNitto, and Michael Lauderdale remember Dr. Herbert for his steady leadership and devotion to the school and the social work profession. Dr. Herbert left the school a great gift when he guided preparation of *An Idea Worth Fulfilling*, a history of the UT Austin School of Social Work. It is most fitting and a lasting tribute to Dr. Herbert that each year the UT Austin School of Social Work awards the George K. Herbert Endowed Professorship to a deserving student.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Clayton Shorkey, Diana DiNitto, and Michael Lauderdale.

Distributed to the dean of Jackson School of Social Work on June 23, 2017, and posted under "Memorial Resolutions" at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.