REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
EDWIN B. ALLAIRE

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Edwin B. Allaire, professor emeritus, philosophy, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

Dean P. Neikirk, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

IN MEMORIUM
EDWIN B. ALLAIRE

Edwin B. Allaire (August 29, 1930-September 27, 2013) was professor of philosophy at The University of Texas at Austin from 1969 until his retirement in 2006. Elected professor of philosophy emeritus upon retirement, he continued teaching and advising students informally, until he was overcome by illness earlier this year. He was chair of the Faculty Senate from September 1974 to August 1975.

Prior to coming to Texas, Allaire taught from 1960 until 1968, at the University of Iowa, where he was chair of the philosophy department from 1965 until 1968. He was also a visiting professor at the University of Michigan and at Swarthmore College, and presented invited lectures and colloquies at many other universities. Raised in Bayonne, New Jersey, he served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1953 until 1955. He received a B.A. from Drew University in New Jersey in 1956 and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1960.

Professor Allaire was a leader in the movement sometimes called “Iowa Ontology” and sometimes “Midwest Metaphysics,” the view that the world is best conceptualized as consisting of bare particulars and their properties. He published several influential articles in ontology and early modern philosophy. He was one of several authors of Essays in Ontology (1963). In 1995, the book Berkeley's Metaphysics and Epistemology: Structural, Interpretive, and Critical Essays was dedicated to him because of his work on the philosopher, George Berkeley.

An excellent teacher, Allaire had doctoral students who went on to teach at highly ranked universities such as the California Institute of Technology, the University of Pittsburgh, and Yale University. The Graduate School at UT Austin conferred on him an Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award in 1985. In Memoriam comments on various websites testify to his great and lasting influence on students.

Allaire had broad and deep interests in art and literature. He often gave books of poetry as gifts, not for any occasion and not as an obligation, but from “a greatness of spirit.” He would also give friends other books, such as a four-volume collection that included Fowler’s A Dictionary of Modern English and Fowler’s The King’s English. He occasionally surprised the staff with bagels or pastries. He applied his understanding and appreciation of language in helping both students and young colleagues to improve their writing. In reviewing work of graduate applicants, graduate students, and colleagues, he became well known for conscientiousness effort to appreciate each person without preconceptions, as an individual.

His sometimes-pointed humor always had a point—often against mean-spiritedness and oppressive bureaucracy. He once joked “Texas was the only state with a nationalism complex.”
Allaire is survived by his son Christopher and daughter Valerie.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Aloysius P. Martinich (chair) and Alexander Mourrelatos and Stephen H. Phillips.

Distributed to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts on May 28, 2014, and posted under “Memorials” at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/.