Harry Yandell Benedict, tenth president of The University of Texas at Austin and professor of mathematics and astronomy, died on May 10, 1937. He was 67.

Services for President Benedict were held at Gregory Gymnasium, with three thousand in attendance. The Governor of Texas, the Board of Regents, delegations from both houses of the Texas Legislature, and representatives from all the state's colleges and universities were present. Members of the Students' Association, the Longhorn Band, and other student groups also participated. The service concluded with the "The Eyes of Texas" played on the Tower chimes. President Benedict was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

President Benedict was born on November 14, 1869, in Louisville, Kentucky. His parents were Joseph and Adele (Peters) Benedict. In 1877 he moved to Texas with his mother and brother Carl to live on land owned by his maternal great-grandfather, S. W. Peters, along the Brazos River in Young and Stephens counties. With the exception of attending schools in Graham and Weatherford, Texas, for eight months, he was taught at home by his "well-educated" mother. Her family owned a library of 1,000 books, which they transported from Kentucky to Texas.

President Benedict enrolled in the University on examination in February 1889 and received a bachelor's degree with honors in 1892, and a master's degree in 1893. While a student at the University, he was a fellow and a tutor in pure mathematics. After working with the McCormick Observatory at the University of Virginia from 1893 to 1895, President Benedict studied at Harvard University. He received a PhD in mathematical astronomy there in 1898.

President Benedict was in charge ad interim of mathematics and astronomy at Vanderbilt University in 1899. He joined the faculty of the University in fall 1899 as an instructor of mathematics. He became a professor of applied mathematics and astronomy in 1907. From 1909 to 1911 he was director of extension. In 1911 he was promoted to dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. From 1913 until 1920 he was also dean of men. In 1927 he was named president of the University. He was the first ex-student to become president and he occupied that office longer than anyone else in the University's history.

During his administration, President Benedict oversaw a major building construction program that added 15 new buildings to the campus. He did not live to see the completion of the McDonald Observatory, a project the University started with an $850,000 gift from the estate of banker William Johnson McDonald.

President Benedict was the author of several books. He wrote *Unified Mathematics* with two other mathematicians (1915). With John A. Lomax, he wrote *Book of Texas* (1916). He also completed *A Source Book of Legislative History of the University of Texas* (1917) and *Peregrinusings* (1924). At the time of his death, he was writing a history of the University. The unfinished manuscript is in the Harry Yandell Archives at the Barker Texas History Center.

President Benedict was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and president of the Texas Academy of Science. He held memberships in the American Mathematical Society, the American Astronomical Society, and other professional organizations. President Benedict was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Baylor University in 1920. He received a similar degree from Southwestern University in 1929. Benedict Hall, dedicated in April 1953, was named in his honor.

John R. Durbin, Secretary  
The General Faculty
Biographical sketch prepared by Teresa Palomo Acosta and posted on the Faculty Council web site on November 17, 2000. Additional biographical sources can be found in the Barker Texas History Center and the New Handbook of Texas, Texas State Historical Association. 1996.