The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Jerry Blaylock, associate professor, nursing, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

IN MEMORIAM
JERRY BLAYLOCK

Dr. Jerry Blaylock served as a distinguished faculty member at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing from 1968 to 1992. During these many years of dedicated service, she was recognized as an outstanding nursing leader, a brilliant educator, and a tireless advocate of the handicapped. She was an expert in medical-surgical and rehabilitation nursing. Highly respected, she was sought as mentor by hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students. She was one of our finest teachers, receiving eight teaching excellence awards at UT Austin for her wit, knowledge, planning skills, and inspiration.

In 1974, Dr. Blaylock was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing, which is comprised of nursing’s most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, and research. For her work in the field of rehabilitation nursing and special education, the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation honored her as Texas Educator of the Year in 1990. In addition, the Texas Nurses Association recognized Dr. Blaylock as a most “Outstanding Member.”

She led by example and will be remembered for her important advocacy for the rights and dignity of the mentally and physically disabled. In addition, Dr. Blaylock helped the directors of the Association of Retarded Citizens submit successful grant proposals and evaluate services and programs. She was known for her wise and gentle counsel. Her philosophy was maximum independence and patient advocacy for all—a conviction for which her students have marched forward in their own work and communities. It was her foresight and leadership that produced the Alternate Entry Master of Science in Nursing program at UT Austin. This program is designed for people holding baccalaureate or graduate degrees in disciplines other than nursing and are interested in pursuing both their Registered Nurse (RN) License and Master of Science degree. In light of the nursing shortage and the need for nursing leadership in all areas of health care, Dr. Blaylock had the vision to anticipate the contributions of these uniquely prepared nursing professionals in twenty-first-century health care. Today, the State of Texas reaps the benefits of over four hundred master’s-prepared nursing graduates of this program who practice and lead in rural settings, hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities. Dr. Blaylock’s leadership and influence will be felt for many years to come.

Dr. Blaylock was born in San Angelo, Texas, on March 21, 1930. An accomplished horseback rider, she participated in rodeos across Texas and South Carolina, winning several blue ribbons that included a regional championship in barrel racing. She received baccalaureate degrees in physical education from Sul Ross University, Alpine, Texas, and in nursing from Baylor University, Waco, Texas. She completed a master’s degree in nursing from the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing, Galveston, Texas, and her doctoral degree in nursing education from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York. Young Jerry Blaylock started her career in public health in South Texas and worked at M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital in Houston. She began teaching at the Baylor University School of Nursing, then taught at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, later at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and finally at The
University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Jerry Blaylock lived her life fully and joyfully and was loved by many.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Marilyn Pattillo (chair), Shannon Patton, and Lynn Rew.

Distributed to the dean of the School of Nursing on July 3, 2012, and posted under “Memorials” at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/.