DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
BETSY L. E. BOWMAN

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Betsy E. Bowman, 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
BETSY L. E. BOWMAN

Betsy Linn Eells Bowman, Ph.D., R.N., served as a distinguished faculty member at The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing for twenty-three years. She taught both undergraduate and graduate students and supervised students’ research for both masters’ theses and doctoral dissertations. She was voted as the Outstanding Nursing Associate Professor at UT Austin and was highly admired by her students. She also authored various scholarly publications and presented papers to nursing, educational, and other organizations.

During her professional career, Dr. Bowman served as a consultant in nursing education for a number of schools across the country and as an accreditation visitor for the National League for Nursing. She was an active member of Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing; the American Nurses Association; the National League for Nursing; the American Association of University Professors; the American Educational Research Association; the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses; the American Association for Higher Education; Pi Lambda Theta; Phi Kappa Phi; and the Ex-Students’ Association of UT Austin. Additionally, she was an active officer and member of multiple nursing and general faculty committees at UT Austin. She also was an involved member of the community, serving on various boards and committees that supported the elderly, several health-related groups, and her church.

Dr. Bowman was born on December 18, 1934, in New Jersey and died in Washington, D.C., on April 5, 2011. She was the proud descendent of two Mayflower Pilgrims, John Alden and Richard Warren. Since childhood, she was a strong student and had many academic interests. She also enjoyed music and played the piano, violin, and string bass from elementary school through high school. When she was fifteen years old, she had surgery for cancer of the thyroid, resulting from X-rays as an infant to shrink an enlarged thymus gland. She had health challenges from that surgery for the remainder of her life.

Upon completion of high school, Betsy Bowman enrolled in the Middlesex General Hospital School of Nursing, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and graduated from the program in 1958. She continued her education, receiving her B.S.N. degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and her M.S. degree with a major in medical surgical nursing from the University of Maryland in Baltimore. In 1967, she completed a Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin with a focus on curriculum and instruction. She specialized in the care of adult and elderly patients.

Dr. Bowman practiced nursing in Washington, D.C., and the states of New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Arizona, and Texas. She also taught nursing at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., before joining the faculty of the System-wide School of Nursing at the University of Texas. After the System-wide school’s dissolution, she continued her academic career as a faculty member of the School of Nursing at The University of Texas at Austin.

After retirement, Dr. Bowman moved to Washington, D.C., to be closer to her family. While there, she continued her nursing practice interests as a tireless advocate for the elderly. She was a member of the Episcopal Senior Ministries and traveled to New York City by train—with walker and oxygen—for meetings.
She continued to volunteer and teach classes for senior services and remained active at St. Columba’s Episcopal Church. In addition, she grew beautiful hibiscus plants and served as a judge in competitions.

Dr. Bowman was an active and contributing member to her profession and to society in general due to her strong commitment to leaving the world a better place than she found it. Her death is a loss to all who knew her and/or profited from her efforts.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Jan T. Fox (chair), Shannon Patton, and Sheri Innerarity.

Distributed to the dean of the School of Nursing on June 15, 2012, and posted under “Memorials” at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/.