REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
BILL D. FRANCIS

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Bill D. Francis, professor emeritus, fine arts, has filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

John R. Durbin, Secretary
The General Faculty

IN MEMORIAM
BILL D. FRANCIS

Bill D. Francis, Leslie Waggener Professor Emeritus in Fine Arts, died on July 13, 2000.

Bill Francis was born in Salem, Illinois, on October 14, 1929. He received a BS in art education from Illinois State University in 1951, and an MS in applied art from the University of Wisconsin in 1952. Bill was a candidate for a doctoral degree in art education at Indiana University.

Prior to his teaching career at The University of Texas at Austin, Bill taught at William Horlick High School in Racine, Wisconsin, Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. He was also principal for a comparative cultures program for the Foreign Studies League in Western Europe. In 1960, Bill joined the faculty of the Department of Art and Art History at UT Austin to teach studio and art education courses.

In addition to being a very popular teacher, Bill Francis was chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee, graduate advisor, and acting chairman for the Department of Art and Art History; acting and associate dean of the College of Fine Arts; and secretary of the General Faculty.

Professionally, Francis was an active participant in the Texas, Western, and National Art Education Associations. From 1971 to 1973 Bill was president of the Texas Art Education Association. Many art, social studies, and humanities teachers used Bill’s book, The Humanities in Retrospect—Cross Comparison of Cultures from 1100 to 1972, published by Kendall/Hunt in 1974. He exhibited his fabric designs and drawings in many shows throughout the U.S.

Francis retired from The University of Texas at Austin in 1993 as the Leslie Waggener Professor Emeritus in the College of Fine Arts. In “retirement,” Bill continued to produce and exhibit his Prismacolor drawings and frequently visited with friends and colleagues at the University. The Bill D. Francis Endowed Scholarship in Visual Art Studies and Art Education was established on January 1, 1998.

Students and colleagues frequently remarked about Professor Francis’s love of the University, including its performing arts facilities, museums, students, and sports. Bill loved to teach his art education and drawing for non-art majors classes, and he kept in close contact with many colleagues through his professional associations. Bill was an excellent model for the many students he inspired.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Jarvis Ulbricht (chair), Rebecca Brooks, and Lee Chesney.

Distributed to the Dean of the College of Fine Arts, the Executive Vice President and Provost, and the President on February 21, 2001. Copies are available on request from the Office of the General Faculty, FAC 22, F9500. This resolution is posted under “Memorials” at: http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/.