



# WPI

## *Resolution of the Faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

*We, the Faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, note with profound sorrow and a great sense of loss the passing of our friend and colleague Edmund Titus Cranch, 12th president of the Institute, who died February 4, 2015. Ed Cranch served as president from 1978 to 1985, a period marked by balanced budgets and a strong financial picture, a tripling of alumni giving, and modest growth in both the graduate and undergraduate populations.*

*Arriving less than a decade after the launch of the WPI Plan, Cranch worked with the faculty to fine-tune the undergraduate curriculum and to broaden WPI's academic offerings to meet the changing needs and interests of students and industry. For example, he bolstered the relatively young program in biology and biotechnology and put his support behind a number of new graduate initiatives, including an MBA program and doctoral programs in computer science and materials science and engineering. In addition, new exchange programs were launched in England, Scotland, and Sweden—early steps in the development of WPI's global program.*

*When an outside assessment identified deficiencies in the Institute's physical plant, he won approval from the Board of Trustees for the construction of a new residence hall, Founders Hall, the largest construction project in WPI's history to that point, and for extensive renovations of the Washburn Shops (the oldest building in the nation used continuously for engineering education), Atwater Kent Laboratories (the nation's first building for education in electrical engineering), and WPI's outdoor recreational facilities (a project that included the installation of artificial turf on Alumni Field).*

*During his administration he helped expand WPI's ties to industry. For example, he supported the founding of the Manufacturing Engineering Applications Center, through which sponsoring companies worked with WPI faculty and students to implement automated manufacturing technology—an initiative that saw the development of WPI's first robotics laboratory—and the Center for the Management of Management of Advanced Automation Technology. At the dawn of the personal computer age, Cranch appointed a dean of academic computing to help integrate PCs into the Institute's academic and research endeavors.*

*Cranch joined WPI following a distinguished 30-year career in engineering education and academic administration, with much of that time spent at Cornell University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering through the U.S. Navy's*

wartime V-12 officer training program, a master's in mechanical engineering, and a PhD in mechanics, mathematics, and applied physics. He joined the Cornell faculty, teaching mechanics, twice chairing the Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, serving as associate dean of graduate study and research, and ultimately being appointed dean of the School of Engineering. He was one of the first faculty members elected to the Cornell Board of Trustees.

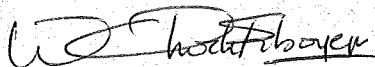
Active in engineering practice and education nationally, he spent time in Zurich and at Stanford as a National Science Foundation fellow and was an active member and officer of the American Society for Engineering Education. He was elected national president of ASEE in 1985, and was named an ASEE fellow in 1993. He was also a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. WPI awarded him an honorary doctorate in engineering in 1985.

Before enrolling at Cornell, Cranch attended Newark College of Engineering for two years before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He was later commissioned a Navy ensign and served as an engineering officer aboard the light cruiser USS Providence. He also worked briefly for Bell Labs as a member of the technical staff in the area of electromechanical design and development. He left WPI to become president of the Wang Institute of Graduate Studies, founded by technology entrepreneur An Wang.

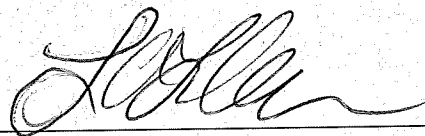
Therefore, let it be resolved that we, the members of the Faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, recognize and express our admiration of and eternal gratitude to President Edmund Titus Cranch, whose deep experience in engineering education and quiet but enlightened leadership helped the Institute navigate a critical era in its recent history, a period that saw the rise of the graduate program and research enterprise, early forays into global undergraduate education, and the expansion of WPI's historic ties to industry. Let it also be resolved that this resolution be inscribed in the permanent records of this faculty as a memorial to our beloved colleague, and that a copy be delivered to his family.



Tanja Dominko  
Secretary of the Faculty



Wole Soboyejo  
Provost & Senior Vice President  
ad Interim



Laurie Leshin  
President