



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 Francis Lutz, who died April 19, 2015. A former professor of civil engineering at WPI, he also served as the university's second dean of undergraduate studies. A passionate advocate for WPI's innovative approach to education, and for its students, he was a central figure in the early development of and continuing success of both the WPI Plan and the Global Projects Program.

Frank Lutz joined the WPI faculty as an assistant professor of civil engineering in 1972, just two years after the faculty voted to approve the Plan. It wasn't long before he found himself at the center of one of the boldest initiatives of the early Plan years, the inauguration of the first off-campus center for student project work. He volunteered to help establish the residential center in Washington, D.C., and with other WPI faculty members, knocked on doors all over the nation's capital to line up the first projects. Then in 1974, he moved his family to Washington D.C. for a year so he could serve as the center's first resident advisor. The D.C. center, which he directed for several years, became the model for the many off-campus project centers that would follow.

After he returned to campus, Lutz was promoted to associate professor of civil engineering and named assistant dean for projects. Four years later he was promoted again, to full professor and associate dean. Working closely with undergraduate dean Bill Grogan, he served as a key member of a team charged with implementing the nascent Plan. As projects formed the centerpiece of the program, Lutz's work to help secure project sponsors and keep the projects program running smoothly proved critical to helping the Plan build momentum. He also played a crucial role in globalizing the WPI Plan and building the foundation for what would become the Global Projects Program, beginning in 1987 when he helped launch WPI's first overseas project center, in London.

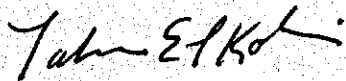
In 1986 he was appointed associate dean of undergraduate studies with responsibilities in cooperative education, administrative computer systems, and administration of the undergraduate program. He continued as professor of civil engineering, conducting research in hydrology, water resources, and water quality. During the 1988-89 academic year, he was an American Council on Education fellow at Carnegie Mellon

University, where he worked closely with the university's president and provost and participated in all aspects of institutional administration.

The experience helped prepare him for his next administrative challenge. In 1990, when Grogan, his friend and mentor, retired, he was selected to serve as just the second dean of undergraduate studies in WPI's history. By then the Plan had reached its 20th anniversary, having weathered some major changes, but also gaining stability. Lutz would help it continue to evolve and mature during a period that saw the Institute surmount a recession and enrollment challenges while also building a research enterprise.

In 1996 he decided to return to his native New Jersey, where he had earned an undergraduate degree in civil engineering at New Jersey Institute of Technology before going on to receive a master's and a PhD in the field from New York University. He became the founding dean of the Monmouth University School of Science (then known as the School of Science, Engineering and Technology). In that role he established bachelor of science programs in both software engineering and marine and environmental biology and policy, and he also helped found the Urban Coast and Rapid Response Institutes. He retired from Monmouth in 2013 as an emeritus professor. Elected to Chi Epsilon and Sigma Xi honor societies, he was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society for Engineering Education, and the American Association for Higher Education.

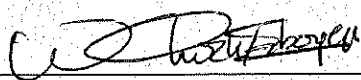
Therefore, let it be resolved that we, the members of the Faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, recognize and express our admiration of and eternal gratitude to Francis Lutz, a passionate educator and a dedicated academic administrator whose remarkable work to help establish and nurture the projects program and the global projects program, two core components of the WPI Plan, has profoundly enriched the lives of generations of WPI students. 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.



Tahar El-Korchi
Department Head,
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