

*A 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, Professor Gordon C. Branche, who died on August 11, 2015. His contributions to the WPI community and beyond will live on in all those whose hearts and minds he touched.

Born in 1932 in Niagara Falls, New York, Gordon Branche was a member of the seventh generation of the Branche family which had settled in that region. He received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from Notre Dame University and a graduate degree, with a concentration in modern algebra, from the University of Rochester. Upon conclusion of his graduate studies in 1959, he joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at WPI. After 38 years at WPI he retired in 1997 and was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus.

During his long tenure at WPI, Professor Branche was known as an excellent teacher, played important roles in the WPI community and contributed significantly to the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

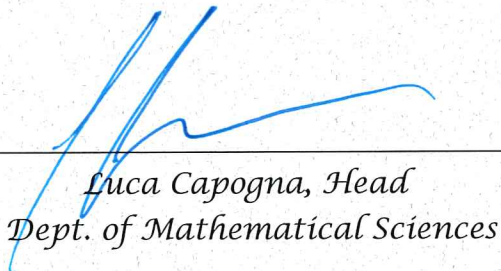
Gordon Branche participated in the Young Faculty Organization, contributed to the implementation of the WPI Plan and, from 1977 to 1980, served as Secretary of the Faculty - the highest elected Faculty position. In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s he filled the role of Associate Department Head for several Department Heads. From 1986 to 1987 and from 1995 to 1997, when the need arose, he accepted the position of Interim Department Head.

Gordon Branche was a co-founder of the WPI Foot Pounders running club and of the WPI Hash House Harriers running group. Upon his retirement, Gordon continued his connections to WPI. He was a familiar personality at the WPI gym and an active participant in the Math Department's weekly Fluid Dynamics Seminar.

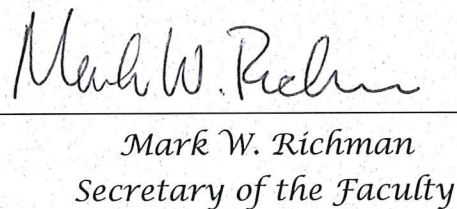
In addition to his commitment to WPI, Gordon Branche was an active Worcesterite. He served on the Board of the Worcester Public Library and was a key member of the Worcester Cable Commission. For many years he was a Eucharistic Minister at the Immaculate Conception Church.

Professor Branche's competence, his sense of fairness and his unique sense of humor endeared him to colleagues, staff and students. His long service to WPI, his dedication to teaching, his many contributions to the progress of the Department of Mathematical Sciences and to the progress of the Institute, and his service to the community are fully worthy of our recognition and remembrance.

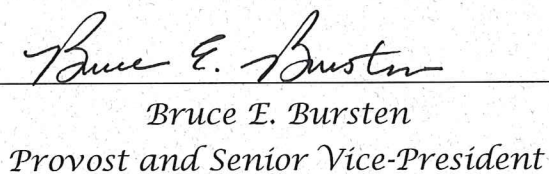
Therefore, let it be resolved that we, the members of the Faculty of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, recognize and express our gratitude and admiration for Professor Gordon C. Branche as a dedicated teacher, advisor and friend. Let it also be resolved that this resolution be inscribed in the permanent records of this faculty as a memorial to our beloved colleague, and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to his family.



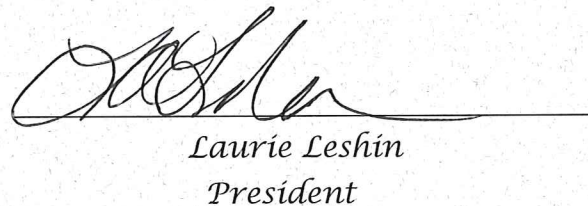
*Luca Capogna, Head
Dept. of Mathematical Sciences*



*Mark W. Richman
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