

## **Memorial Resolution**

**Richard Hess**

**Associate Professor of Communication**

Richard Hess came to IPFW in 1968 when the university was only beginning its fourth year. During his tenure here he provided much valued leadership, sometimes quiet, sometimes strong and vociferous for his discipline, the professorate, and the campus. As for the Department, Dick was our classical rhetorician, and since rhetoric is a foundation of our discipline, Dr. Hess provided an essential foundation for the department.

During his years at IPFW, Dick served the discipline of Communication in a variety of ways. He was instrumental in developing the M.A./M.S in Professional Communication at IPFW. He served as its first Graduate Director. He was actively involved with the National Communication Association, and the Central States Communication Association. He also served a term as President of the Indiana Speech Association. He presented his scholarship at many scholarly venues, including highly selective conferences that focused on rhetoric.

His service to and leadership of the professorate is reflected in his extensive involvement in The American Association of University Professors, including 5 terms as President of the IPFW Chapter and 2 terms as President of the Indiana Conference. Dick received the Distinguished Service Award from the Indiana Conference of AAUP for his efforts.

Dick Hess served at every possible level from his department to the Purdue University system. He served on over 30 different recruitment committees for faculty, Departmental Chairs, Deans and Vice Chancellors. Dick was a founding member and Chairperson of the Honors Council. He served as Acting Departmental Chair. He also served 11 years as an IPFW Senator, and 4 terms as Presiding Officer of the IPFW Senate, including his final unfinished term.

Dick's professional service contributions were acknowledged by his inclusion in the 2002 *International Directory of Distinguished Leadership*.

Dick's leadership was sometimes strong and vocal. Dick had the courage of his convictions. When he saw injustice, unfair treatment, a potential to make positive change, he was willing to step up and speak his mind. Dick regularly made efforts to speak for those whose voice was unheard. He believed everyone deserved a voice, a place at the table. Leadership requires both courage and commitment to principles. Dick provided a valuable model for us all. His dedicated work with Habitat for Humanity is testament to Dick's capacity not to just speak about issues of social justice, but to act as well.

In conclusion, the Department echoes the words of Senator Michael Nusbaumer who concluded his memorial on behalf of the Executive Committee presented to the Senate earlier this spring by reminding us that "[Dick's] voice falls silent, but his legacy is forever intertwined with IPFW. Dick, we will miss you.