

## **MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

### **STEVEN HOLLANDER**

**16 February 1941-13 December 1998**

Steven Hollander, Assistant Professor of English and Linguistics and a member of the IPFW faculty for thirty years, died on 13 December 1998. He was mourned by his family, friends, and colleagues who loved him deeply. These emotions, love and sorrow, stand as a true measure of his life and its meaning to this institution and the larger community beyond.

Professor Hollander came to Fort Wayne in the summer of 1968 with a one-year appointment to teach English in what was then the Purdue University English Department. He had done his undergraduate work at Rutgers University and was, at that time, a doctoral candidate at Indiana University. He flourished here, quickly establishing himself as a truly great teacher and an exemplary leader in faculty governance. He was reappointed to one-year contracts until, despite still not having a Ph.D., he was given tenure. He took pride in this accomplishment and resisted administrative pressure and the encouragement of his friends to write a dissertation. Instead, he achieved an unmatched moral and intellectual authority among his colleagues.

It was, of course, impossible for them to acknowledge his expertise in their own fields, but they did not hesitate to accept his word as law in the disciplines of everyone else. They were right to do so, for he was as nearly omniscient as anyone can be in a complicated age. A man with a good liberal education, Steven Hollander could create a set of bylaws, teach people to write, improve a computer's memory, debug a program, heal sick prose, and patiently hear, and carefully counsel, a troubled human being. He had a lively mind, useful hands, and an open heart. The man who came as a replacement stayed and became irreplaceable.

And many benefited. Several generations of English Department chairs, Arts and Sciences deans, and IPFW chancellors and vice chancellors relied on Professor Hollander for good advice and well-earned criticism--which he provided to them, and anyone who crossed his path, generously and without stinting. He either led or provoked his colleagues on every great effort they made: constitutions, bylaws, rules of procedure, academic regulations, general education, student code of conduct, autonomy and independence, promotion and tenure, grievance procedures, and so on down the mighty list. As a long-time member of the Indiana University Faculty Council, he made important contributions through his work on its Educational Policy Committee and the Style and Rules Committee. He also was in demand as a consultant on technical writing, computer software, and programming in a variety of industries, even spending a sabbatical leave with Lincoln National Corporation.

But, how can he be best remembered? Perhaps by recalling a message he sent to some colleagues after he had been diagnosed as having lung cancer last summer. He wrote:

Death is, for me, an event that holds no fear; dying is, however, a process that can range from horrible to (I suppose) happy. Each of you has, to various degrees, made the process of dying manageable. I thank you--and especially Ann/senate-dev /senate-dev Be kind to her, please, forever.

There is so much in this short passage--an unblinking look at death and its possibilities by someone who knows the odds and is facing them courageously--a graceful and generous acknowledging of the sympathy and concern of others (generous because one has lung cancer all alone and the helpful, at the end, are helpless)--and at last, love and the unpaid debt it leaves behind to friends in death. This is what he did, skillfully, for his students everyday: take the thing to pieces, show how each part fits with the others, and thus reveal the art and character of the man of oh so many marvelous parts who wrote it.

The Senate shares the grief and happy memories that Steven Hollander's death brought to his sons, Michael and Emmett, and to Ann Colbert, and honors him as a great man of this place and time.