Be it resolved that on February 11, 2005, the faculty and staff of the College of Education at the University of Maryland honor the life and professional career and acknowledge the death of Dr. Hoke L. Smith, President Emeritus of Towson University and a visiting Professor in the Department of Education Policy and Leadership at the College of Education.

Hoke Smith, 72, passed away on March 27, 2004, at his home in Baltimore. He is survived by three sons, Kevin H. Smith of Memphis, Tennessee, Kerry J. Smith of Seattle, Washington, and Glen P. Smith of Atlanta, Georgia; a daughter, Amy Laurel Smith Hegy of San Diego, California; three grandsons, two granddaughters, and his special friend, Agi Rado.

Born and raised in Galesburg, Illinois, Hoke served as a captain in the U.S. Army before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in political science from Knox College in 1953. He received a master’s in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia in 1954 and earned his doctorate in 1958 from Emory University in Atlanta, where he was honored as the outstanding student in the graduate school.

Hoke’s career began at Hiram College as an associate professor of political science before becoming the vice president for academic administration at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa in 1970.

His longstanding commitment to higher education in Maryland began in 1979 when he assumed responsibilities as the president of Towson University, a post he held for 22 years. Under his leadership, the university grew to enroll more than 16,000 students, becoming the second largest institution in the University System of Maryland.

Hoke was actively involved in higher education policy efforts throughout Maryland and the United States. He was a member of over 30 professional organizations and honorary associations, and served in various leadership roles throughout his professional affiliations, including as the chairman of the boards for the American Council on Education from 1992 to 1993 and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities from 1986 to 1987.

Colleagues in the College of Education were drawn to Hoke’s gentle spirit, folksy charm and distinguished intellect. His passing was a loss to American higher education, the State of Maryland, the Towson University family, and to his friends at the college where he will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

The College of Education is grateful for his service and extends its condolences to his family and friends.

February 11, 2005