Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Arts & Science/University College deeply regrets the passing of Professor Emeritus R.M.H. Shepherd, a member of the University College Department of Classics, on 18 May 2016 in his 91st year.

Professor Shepherd was born in St. Kitts, British West Indies, and grew up in Barbados, where he was educated at Harrison College and took a special interest in Greek, Latin, Ancient History, and Classical literature. He was awarded the Barbados Scholarship to attend Oxford or Cambridge in 1945 and entered St. John's College, Cambridge, that fall, enrolled in the Classical Tripos. He took his BA in 1948 and following a post-graduate year in Cambridge, combined with short periods at the British Schools in Rome and Athens, he came to University College at the University of Toronto in 1949 as a Lecturer in ancient Greek. He received his MA in 1952, and was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1956, Associate Professor in 1962, and full Professor in 1966, retiring in 1991 though he continued to teach part-time in the Department until 1995.

From 1961-1970 he served as the Registrar of University College, and throughout his long academic career he contributed stalwart service to the collegial and academic missions of his Department, College, and University. For Classics, he chaired various committees and played a large role in the development and redesign of courses, including new offerings in translation which increased enrolment, among them his popular year-long course in Greek & Roman Mythology. For his College, he served not only as Registrar but also as Acting Principal and Chair of College Council in 1980-1981. For the University, he chaired the UTFA Committee on University Government in 1971-1972 and served on Governing Council in 1972-1973 as a member for the Humanities.

His academic service to the Department included service as liaison with secondary schools (1956-1963), when he was in charge of the Greek Sight Competition and contributed to organizing the Latin Verse—Reading contests (the annual *Parva Torontoniensis*). In 1966, he was appointed to the eight-person Presidential Advisory Committee on Instruction, Curriculum and Programs in the Faculty of Arts and Science, the “Macpherson Committee,” which prepared the ground for the “New Program” in the Faculty and led to the transition from its venerable Honours Program to the more flexible structure of degree requirements and courses which has continued to evolve. In 1978-1979, he chaired a Faculty Decanal Committee on Admissions Criteria: the “Shepherd Report” reintroduced more rigorous requirements which had lapsed in the aftermath of the new program.
His administrative commitments at the University level were also influential. He was an active member and committee chair in the University’s former Senate, from his appointment as UC Registrar in 1961. He served effectively on the 1970-1971 University-wide Committee on University Government, whose report led to the replacement of the Senate and Board of Governors by a unicameral Governing Council. He subsequently participated in several Council committees, most notably as Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee (1972-1973 and 1980-1982), which assumed the Senate’s former responsibility for academic policy, and as a member of the Executive Committee of Governing Council (1979-1982).

Professor Shepherd was widely known to his colleagues as a man of deep learning and high academic standards. His vigilant gaze might at times have been unnerving to colleagues who were imprecise in their thinking or expression, but his students quickly came to appreciate a teacher who called out their best, gave them credit for it and gave them his best in return. His gift for clear, detailed – even expansive – explication of a subject sometimes made him a challenging conversationalist but this was what also made him a great teacher. As a colleague once remarked, “He was that rare person who spoke even conversationally in fully-punctuated, publishable paragraphs.”

The Department of Classics and University College deeply regret the loss of our valued colleague.

Professor Shepherd is survived by his life partner, Norma Bliss; his son David (wife June, and their daughter Emma), and his daughter Diana.

Be it further moved that this resolution be inscribed in the minutes and that a copy be transmitted to the survivors as a token of our deep respect.

Alison Keith FRSC
Professor and Acting Chair
Department of Classics
University of Toronto

Glenn Loney
Former Registrar
University College