MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
John Barker Davies (1937-2020)
Senior Tutor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
University of Toronto

February 11, 1937 – February 22, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Faculty of Arts & Science is deeply saddened by and mourns the passing of Professor John Barker Davies who died at the age of 82 in late January 2019.

John Barker Davies was born in Ontario in 1937. He completed his B.A. at the University of Toronto in 1960, and his Masters' degree at the University of Michigan in 1961. Mr. Davies served as Tutor and Senior Tutor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Toronto, from 1974 until 1992. During this period he taught and coordinated courses in first and second year Spanish. He also taught a second-year Introduction to Linguistics and an advanced undergraduate course in Practical Translation. He served for many years as the department’s Undergraduate Secretary, a duty that he undertook with good will and a fine sense of humour. He respected and valued collegial relations with faculty members, and undergraduates who consulted him could count on a sympathetic ear. In his administrative duties he could rely on his knowledge of the department’s history, including his recollections of his fellow students and his undergraduate teachers. He liked to tell the story of a prominent scholar who once plugged in an empty electric kettle and burned a hole in the floor of his office at University College. He enjoyed comic anecdotes and plays on words, an appreciation that occasionally served him well when teaching idiomatic expressions in Spanish and English to undergraduate students. A generous and committed departmental citizen, Mr. Davies endowed the “Doris May Barker Scholarship” in honour of his mother, an award that has supported many of our students.

After his retirement in 1992, Mr. Davies enjoyed a private life and the company of friends and neighbours. In his later years and declining health, he was supported by his personal caregiver, Amy. He passed away quietly on February 22, 2020, survived by his cousin, Stephen Scott.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be inscribed in the minutes and that a copy be transmitted to his family as a token of our deep gratitude and respect.