MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR NORMAN E. HUSTON

Norman Earl Huston, professor emeritus of Nuclear Engineering, was born in Jefferson, Iowa, January 24, 1919. He graduated from Davenport, Iowa High School in June 1937. He received the AB degree from University of California - Berkeley in Physics, June 1943, and the PhD from University of Southern California in 1950.

He was employed as a physicist and crew chief at the University of California Radiation Laboratory until June 1944 when he started active duty as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. After specialized training in electronics and radar at Princeton University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he served as a radar observer until June 1947, attaining the rank of lieutenant (jg).

Following his military service, he was employed as an engineer by North American Aviation until he left to enter graduate school at the University of Southern California. Completing his PhD, he returned to North American Aviation, Atomics International Division in November 1950. There he moved through a series of assignments of increasing responsibility going from engineer to department director.

In 1966, Norman Huston was contacted by University of Wisconsin representatives regarding the position of professor and director of a new service unit being established in the College of Engineering, the Instrumentation Systems Center. This center was to provide technical service for scientific instruments in the college and the rest of the university on a cost recovery basis. It had been recognized that the maintenance of the increasingly complex scientific equipment being used in research programs on the campus was beyond the capability of many research investigators. A central organization with a skilled staff could make an invaluable contribution. Such a center would be unique in a university.

His diversified training and experience in technical industry qualified Norman Huston to head up such a center, and he recognized the need for such an organization. He accepted the challenge to come to Madison as the center director. The Department of Nuclear Engineering unanimously voted to appoint him as a professor in that department effective July 1, 1966.

Using the College of Engineering Mechanical Shop and the Electrical Standards Laboratory as a starting point, the new director built a staff and organization capable of meeting the repair, calibration, and instrument development needs of the university community. The organization, known as the Instrumentation Systems Center (ISC) also provided service to off campus organizations when there were no commercial companies offering the service. For example, a clinical engineering group was formed to provide on-site consultation and calibration services related to medical instrumentation for smaller Wisconsin hospitals. Other ISC engineers worked with Wisconsin companies and other state agencies to meet their needs for custom instrumentation.

In 1974 Dr. Huston secured a contract with NASA that established ISC as a Biomedical Applications Team. The team was successful in facilitating a number of innovative biomedical technology transfers to the research and commercial healthcare communities.

ISC also gained international recognition. In 1974 Dr. Huston contracted with the government of Singapore for ISC to advise and help establish the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research. To this end, Dr. Huston, along with other UW personnel, spent time in Singapore, and his

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ISC staff trained Singapore personnel in Madison. The success of this program led to a contract in 1977 with the United States Agency for International Development to assist the government of Egypt in establishing a similar organization in Cairo. He also was involved in international work in Saudi Arabia and Indonesia in 1977.

Dr. Huston was active in campus committees relating to instrumentation. He was the director of the Advisory Center for Medical Technology and Systems, the Ocean Engineering Laboratories of the University of Wisconsin and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Biomedical Applications Team.

Active in professional societies, he served as a member of the Subcommittee on the Interaction of Engineering in Biology and Medicine of the National Academy of Engineering. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the American Nuclear Society, the American Society of Engineering Education, The American Physical Society, and the Instrument Society of America, serving as its president. He was a contributing author to a number of technical publications and on the editorial boards of instrumentation related journals.

He was a member of Sigma Xi and other honorary societies. He was a member of Rotary International.

Dr. Huston retired and was granted emeritus status in 1984. He died after a period of declining health, June 12, 1999. He is survived by his wife, Maribelle Huston, and their children, Norman E. Huston, Jr., Anne Marie (Huston) Moon, and Susan Deane (Huston) Sinclair.

He is remembered as a friendly, cheerful colleague, always willing to take on difficult tasks. He used his energy and talents to assist others with their programs and made important contributions to the university and the larger scientific community of the world.

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