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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LEO JAKOBSON (1919-2000)

Professor Leo Jakobson passed away unexpectedly on February 22, 2000. Although he had a variety of health problems in recent years, his condition did not appear life-threatening. Family and friends celebrated his eightieth birthday only a few weeks earlier.

Jakobson came to the UW-Madison in 1957 as an Associate Professor of City Planning, Department of Civil Engineering, and Institutional Planner in the UW Campus Department of Planning and Construction. He was one of the inter-disciplinary founding faculty members for the establishment of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He joined the Department on its inception in 1962 and continued as a faculty member through his retirement in 1987. He played a pivotal role in the Department's development during its first 25 years. He continued to be actively involved in professional planning practice and research until his death. He was a Visiting Professor, Helsinki Summer University, Helsinki, Finland during the summers of 1985-87. During 1985-88, he was a Senior Lecturer, Department of City and Regional Planning, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Since 1989, he has frequently been a Visiting Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki, Finland. During the last several years, he has actively worked as a consultant to Promega Corporation in Fitchburg. For several years after his retirement, he also continued his international consulting in developing countries--especially in the Philippines, India, and Indonesia.

Professor Jakobson received many distinguished awards. He was a recipient of the second Oskari Vilamo Trust Annual Prize for outstanding contributions to the art and science of urban and regional planning in 1987. During the same year, he and his team won the second prize for the proposal (A Concept Sketch for an Advanced Information City Based on Integrated Knowledge) in the International Concept Competition for an Advanced Information City sponsored by the Japan Association for Planning Administration. Again in the same year, he received an Outstanding Planning Award from the American Planning Association, New England Chapter for his participation in the conceptualization of The Worcester Master Plan.

He made important and significant contributions to the planning profession through his many publications. His writings and publications dealt with planning theory (e.g., Planning and Uncertainty, Conceptual Dilemmas, and On the Nature of Urban Form), as well as applied planning practice (e.g., The Fitchburg Center General Development Plan, and Improvement Programming for Metropolitan Calcutta).

Leo was creative, intellectually formidable and unconventional. He was stubborn, at times uncompromising and demanding, but always a practical scholar. He leaves his indelible mark on both his students and colleagues.

A Memorial Fund has been established in his name at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Ved Prakash, Chair