

COOLIDGE MEMORIAL  
USC Faculty Senate Meeting  
December 4, 1996

Professor Charles W. Coolidge, Chairman of the Faculty Senate of USC Columbia from 1979 to 1981 and Professor emeritus in the Department of History died Tuesday, November 19 at Baptist Medical Center. He was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio in 1927. He received a B.A. degree from Oberlin College in 1947, an M.A. from The Johns Hopkins University in 1953, and a Ph.D. from Trinity College, Dublin University in 1958. After serving as an Instructor at Kenyon College between 1951 and 1953, he began a forty-year career at USC in 1956, advancing rapidly through the ranks to Professor in 1967. Professor Coolidge was one of the University's most highly honored faculty, the recipient of the Russell Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Education Foundation's Distinguished Service Award, and the Blue Key Distinguished Service Award. He was a specialist in modern European and particularly English history and throughout his career his courses were among the most popular with students. Much of his success came from his ability to interest students with a wide range of abilities. While the number of undergraduates he taught was vast, he also produced his department's largest number of Ph.D.'s in European history. Professor Coolidge's extensive service also was strongly student oriented, both within the History department as undergraduate advisor, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Director of Graduate Studies, and on various College and University committees. For many years he was the Faculty Advisor to the local chapters of Blue Key National Honor Society and Phi Kappa Sigma Social Fraternity, and he was always an avid supporter of USC athletic programs, especially the basketball teams. Charles Coolidge's involvement in faculty governance influenced the development of University policies which affected both faculty and students. In addition to his chairmanship of the Faculty Senate, which also included the Senate Steering Committee, he chaired the University Committee on Tenure and Promotions, and the Academic Forward Planning Committee, and served as a member of the President's Academic Advisory Council, and the Faculty Advisory Committee. He contributed to the reaccreditation process of the University twice, serving on each occasion as Chair of Standard III of the Self Studies for the Southern Association. The enormous respect and trust which he enjoyed with both the university administration and faculty resulted in his appointment in 1972 to the very select committee which designed the faculty Tenure and Promotion System currently in force at USC. Professor Coolidge led many a Spring Commencement procession garbed in his colorful Dublin doctoral robes, ceremonial expression of the "Mr. Carolina" he represented to so many.

Therefore be it resolved that the USC Faculty Senate on the occasion of the passing of our colleague, Charles W. Coolidge, expresses its recognition of his long and distinguished service to the University and extends its deepest sympathy to his family.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert B. Patterson  
Professor