

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT EDWARD BALDWIN

Robert Edward Baldwin, Hilldale professor emeritus of economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died on April 7, 2011 in Madison. Born in Buffalo, New York in 1924, he received an AB from the University of Buffalo in 1945 and a PhD from Harvard University in 1950, where he stayed as an assistant professor until 1957. Bob was one of the world's preeminent scholars of international trade and economic development. While at Harvard, he published one of his best-known theoretical contributions, the "Baldwin Envelope," which has been widely taught for six decades and remains an important part of international trade economists' toolkits today. While in Cambridge, he married his lifelong partner, Janice Murphy. Their happy marriage was enriched by four children and eight grandchildren.

Bob was an associate and full professor of economics at UCLA between 1957 and 1964. While there, President Kennedy appointed him as chief economist of the newly formed Office of the Special Trade Representative. The family moved to Washington, where he worked in the White House helping the United States prepare for the GATT trade negotiations known as the Kennedy Round.

Bob came to Wisconsin in 1964 as a full professor. He became the F.W. Taussig Research Professor in 1974 and a Hilldale professor in 1982. He was chairman of the Department of Economics between 1975 and 1978. In 1995 he was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Bob was a consultant and advisor to many international organizations and governments, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the National Academy of Sciences, and the World Trade Organization.

The fact that governments and organizations around the world sought out Bob's advice is not surprising. He was an exceptionally insightful, productive scholar. He wrote 23 books and published over 150 articles, many of which appeared in the highest ranking journals in economics. His early contributions were primarily in mathematical trade theory, but he also made important empirical contributions that expanded our understanding of global trade patterns, trade policy and trade politics. Interwoven in Bob's professional career was his interest in the challenges of economic development, particularly on the development-inhibiting effects of tropical diseases.

Among Bob's landmark contributions was the 1985 book, *The Political Economy of U.S. Import Policy*, published by MIT Press. Technically skilled economists are often frustrated by the phenomenon of real-world policies that deviate sharply from the generally accepted teachings of economic theory. The case for free trade is often held up as exhibit A of this phenomenon. Over the years, a variety of explanations have been offered for the observed lack of free-trade policies around the world; the explanations were based on arguments focusing on politics, interest-group pressures, imperfect competition, and the strategic behavior of governments and firms. In his book, Bob presented a definitive study of the political economy of American import policy that exposed the critical roles played by institutions, foreign policy, and values of the electorate in explaining real-world trade policy.

Bob was a devoted teacher and a wonderful departmental and professional colleague. At Wisconsin he chaired over 65 dissertations, more than any other professor in the history of the economics department. His PhD students have become important figures in governments as well as professors at leading colleges and universities in the United States and around the world. In his undergraduate courses, he consistently was one of the highest ranked teachers within the department. Bob was renowned in the department and in the wider economics profession for his positive attitude and for his unwavering support of new research

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methods and ideas of students and young economics faculty. In later years he became a beloved mentor and elder statesman to the field of international economics.

Robert Baldwin was admired and cherished by students and faculty at Wisconsin and at other academic institutions and professional organizations around the country and throughout the world. He is and will be greatly missed.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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