
Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison On the Death of Professor Emeritus Robert L. Clodius

Professor Robert Clodius distinguished himself as a teacher, scholar, and academic administrator at UW-Madison. He made significant contributions in campus administration during the early evolution of the University of Wisconsin System. He extended his higher education administrative leadership in national and international institutions.

Bob Clodius was born in Walla Walla, Washington, March 10, 1921. He grew up on a farm and learned early the challenges in the economics of farming. He received BS and PhD Degrees from University of California-Berkley. His university studies were interrupted by service from 1942-1946 as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

He became an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1950. Bob Clodius was quickly recognized as a talented teacher. In 1953 he received the first Kiekhofner Memorial Teaching Award in a UW-Madison wide competition. His research interests centered on markets and the working of imperfect markets. He was a pioneer in market structure analysis as a tool for research in agricultural economics. In 1961 Clodius, with Wisconsin colleague Fritz Mueller published a classic *Journal of Farm Economics* article "*Market Structure Analysis as an Orientation for Research in Agricultural Economics*". This article became a foundation for research on the changing vertical and horizontal coordination in agriculture.

In 1958 Clodius was appointed Associate Dean of the Graduate School, responsible for Social Studies departments. In 1960 he was elected Chair of the Agricultural Economics Department. During his service as chair he negotiated a program of "American Studies" with the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, Brazil. This was the catalyst for over ten years of faculty and student exchanges between Wisconsin and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

In 1962 Bob Clodius was appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs for the University of Wisconsin, which then included institutions in Madison and Milwaukee. As administrative structures changed Clodius responsibilities grew. He was the UW-Madison chief academic officer under various titles from 1962-1971. He served under three UW-Madison presidents and after creation of the UW-System was acting President for UW-Madison for a time in 1970. This was a time of rapid growth for the university in numbers of students, buildings, budgets and development. Clodius was at the center of the decisions that shaped the future of the UW System. This was also the period when the Vietnam War protests were straining student and faculty relationships at UW-Madison and with the community. Bob Clodius was a key leader in moving the UW-Madison forward in these turbulent times.

Professor Clodius resigned his Vice Presidency in 1971 and returned to the Agricultural Economics Department. He was appointed to a special faculty Chair as Regents Professor of the University. In addition to Agricultural Economics he was also elected to professorships in the Departments of Economics (College of Letters and Science) and Educational Administration (School of Education).

In the 1970s Clodius' academic work began to focus on development of higher education in an international context. He was chief administrator of a consortium of Midwest Universities funded by U.S. Agency for International Development working with Universities in Indonesia. He served in Indonesia part and full time until 1977 when he returned to Madison where he taught courses in Agricultural Economics, Economics, and Educational Administration. He taught one of the large basic economics courses which served students from all across campus. He also served from 1977-1979 as Director for the Center of Southeast Asian Studies.

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In 1979 Bob Clodius took leave from UW-Madison to accept the position of President of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the leading national organization promoting the interests of State and Land Grant Universities in teaching, research and service. As President of NASULGC, Bob was an aggressive promoter of international engagement by public universities including their work in developing countries. Peter McPherson, the Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development during the time when Clodius was President of NASULGC, remembers the organization and Bob as strong and effective supporters, in Congress and around the world, of university international development work. Bob Clodius served as NASULGC President until 1992.

In 1990 Bob Clodius retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The academic departments of Agricultural Economics, Economics and Educational Administration recommended he be recognized with Emeritus Professor status. UW-Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala in her letter informing Bob of her positive recommendation to the Board of Regents said “Your accomplishments as a teacher, scholar and administrator have earned you an international reputation and have greatly enhanced our reputation as an institution.”

After Clodius retirement from NASULGC, he and his wife Joan moved to Rockford, Illinois. In Rockford he served on the Boards of Rock Valley Community College and the Music Academy at Rockford College. Professor Robert L. Clodius died on April 2, 2014 in Rockford, at the age of 93.

Memorial Resolution Committee:

Gerald Campbell, Chair

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