

RESOLUTION FOR

Deborah Simmons Fulton

WHEREAS, Deborah Simmons Fulton attended Southeast Missouri State University, Southern Illinois University, Shawnee College, and is a graduate of the Business College Program at the Office Training School of Cape Girardeau; and she began her career at Southeast Missouri State University on July 26, 1976, and faithfully served under seven of the 17 college and university presidents, including Presidents Leestamper, Stacy, Foster, Stroup, Atchley, Nitzschke, and Dobbins; and

WHEREAS, she was originally hired as the secretary/stenographer in the Department of Clinical Education in the University Lab School where her own daughter accompanied her to work each day, and attended the Lab School through the sixth grade; and during her eight years at the Lab School, Deborah Simmons Fulton provided support and guidance in a K-12 school that was a department of the College of Education under Dean Milford Holt, and she had numerous duties, including registering students for classes, administering transcripts, paying referees at basketball games, using ditto and mimeograph machines for daily bulletins and publications, and using the one Xerox machine in the dean's office (with permission only), along with serving, on occasion, as the school nurse, including taking care of playground injuries and checking for head lice; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Simmons Fulton served as the executive secretary in the Provost's Office from 1984 to 1992, and was tapped by the 14th president of Southeast Missouri State University, Dr. Kala Stroup, to be Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, during her 21-year tenure in the President's Office, Deborah Simmons Fulton was invaluable to the administrations of Dr. Stroup, Interim President Bill Atchley, President Dale Nitzschke, and for 14 years has faithfully and admirably served President Kenneth W. Dobbins, performing a wide array of duties, including the organization of 25 to 35 special events per year, hosting dignitaries and special guests, becoming an expert on both Wildwood, the traditional home of the President, and The Rust Home; hiring and mentoring hundreds of student workers; working with the President and First Lady Jeanine Larson Dobbins to create festive and innovative presentations for University guests and holiday gatherings; fostering and maintaining Board, donor, legislative, and Friend of the University relationships; serving as a member of the Executive Team and keeping members of the team on task; participating in and taking notes for Administrative Council; and successfully working as a member of the President's Office team; and

WHEREAS, when Deborah Simmons Fulton found the original 1873 Board of Regents records book unceremoniously laying on a shelf in Academic Hall's vault, she recognized the importance of Board documents as a history of the institution and made it her mission to preserve Board records, and with President Dobbins' support, transferred the original Board documents to University Archives and the Rare Book Room, and utilized technology to advance Board records and history, including the use of iPads in February 2013 for all Board members; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Simmons Fulton presided as secretary to the Board at more than 145 Board of Regents meetings, transcribed more than 2,200 pages of Board minutes (without acquiring carpal tunnel syndrome), and oriented and worked with more than 30 different members of the Board, all-the-while performing professionally with grace under pressure, maintaining total confidentiality where appropriate, attesting to the Board's approval for the issuance of millions in construction bonds, and paying attention to every detail; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as the Secretary to the Board of Regents, the Board completed major physical enhancements at Southeast such as the construction of Robert A. Dempster Hall; development of the River Campus property; construction or renovation of six residence halls; renovation of A.S.J. Carmahan Hall, Magill Hall, and Academic Hall; construction of the Otto and Della Seabaugh Polytechnic Building; construction of two additions to the Student Recreation Center; renovation of the Towers Complex; establishment of Regional Campuses in Sikeston and Kennett, to name only a few; consequently, during her tenure, the University experienced record enrollments and record accreditations of many academic programs; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Simmons Fulton represented the University both locally and nationally, serving as a member of the Adult Business Education Advisory Committee from 1989 to 1995, and in various leadership positions, including two terms as president of the Professional Secretaries International (International Association of Administrative Professionals), and serving a three-year term on the Association of Governing Board of Universities and Colleges (AGB) Professional Staff Planning Committee, and participating in numerous conferences and presentations at the annual conferences of the AGB; and serving on the Board of Directors of the Salvation Army; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Simmons Fulton was a recipient of the Professional Secretaries International Missouri Division Award for Outstanding Service; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Simmons Fulton has been an outstanding mentor and role model to numerous University faculty and staff, a multitude of student workers, and graduate assistants, and she consistently brightened the days of coworkers by always keeping calm and giving wise counsel;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents expresses its appreciation and congratulations to Deborah Simmons Fulton for her outstanding service to Southeast Missouri State University by conferring upon her the status of Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Regents Emerita on behalf of the University and its students, faculty, staff, and administration on this on this twelfth day of April, Two Thousand Thirteen.



Doyle Privett

Doyle L. Privett

President, Board of Regents
Southeast Missouri State University