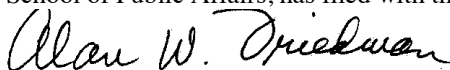


DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
LODIS RHODES**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Professor Lodis Rhodes, LBJ School of Public Affairs, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM
LODIS RHODES**

Lodis Rhodes, life-long educator, community organizer, policy scientist of the digital revolution, and Professor of Public Affairs at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, passed away at the age of seventy-one on August 3, 2017. Lodis was born in Dallas, Texas, on October 29, 1945, but raised as the sole child of a single mother, Dorothy Marie Hill, in South Bend, Indiana. He graduated in 1964 from South Bend Central High School where he distinguished himself as, among other things, a star football player. He continued playing football for two years at Kansas State University before retiring from the sport due to injuries. Active in campus affairs at Kansas State, Lodis was the founding member and President of the university's Black Student Union. He graduated from Kansas State with a B.A. in Psychology (1968) and an M.S. in Social Psychology (1970) and completed doctoral studies in social psychology at the University of Nebraska (Ph.D., 1972).

Lodis joined the faculty of the newly established LBJ School as an Assistant Professor in fall 1974. Over his more than forty years at The University of Texas at Austin, he taught core graduate courses in public management and policy development. He also regularly offered seminars and policy research projects that focused on overcoming racial and ethnic segregation; building and sustaining local communities; and facing the challenges of technology and education policy in a changing society.

While Lodis' graduate studies were in social psychology, his professional engagement evolved well beyond this field. His skills for academic administration and intellectual leadership emerged early in his career. While a graduate student at the University of Nebraska, Lodis and other students influenced the broadening of curricular offerings, including the creation of the Institute of Ethnic Studies in 1972. This experience marked his concern with social change in higher education through curriculum development and community engagement. But it also nurtured an interest in organizational structures and institutional change in higher education itself. After an appointment at the American Council on Education, Lodis accepted an administrative position as assistant to the Vice President and Provost with an academic appointment in the LBJ School. His notable administrative skills and concern for social change shaped his professional activities at the school. He served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research from 1987 until 1991, a period remembered for its significant improvements to the efficiency of administrative systems and to curricular innovation.

Paralleling his achievements in academic administration, Lodis acted upon his personal commitment, based on his understanding of the service obligation of public universities, to promote education innovation for youth, especially African American youth, in low-income communities. In 1988, he helped create the Austin Learning Academy, an organization devoted to promoting literacy in low-income communities. He served as Board Chairman of the academy and implemented community-based research to assess the effectiveness of its educational initiatives. This effort used low-income areas of Austin as education development laboratories to explore a social learning model. In the years that followed, as information technology became a force for social change, Lodis recognized that access to digital technologies would be critical to social mobility for

disadvantaged youth. He helped establish computer centers in East Austin housing projects to train residents in basic computer skills. Concerns with an emerging digital divide led to his collaborative role in the creation and the operations of Austin Free-Net, a nonprofit created in 1995 to ensure that all Austin communities had access to computers and the internet. As a scholar activist, Lodis trained LBJ School graduate students in the assessment of the effectiveness of Austin Free-Net's programs.

Lodis' personal commitment to service is evident in both his professional and public life. In professional service, Rhodes served as editorial board member and advisor of the Texas Center for Educational Research and as Director of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, an organization devoted to advocating on behalf of African Americans. Rhodes also served as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Austin Housing Authority, as a board member for the Community Training and Assistance Center in Austin, and as a task force member of the Environmental Equity and Justice Commission of Austin.

Underlying Lodis' many achievements was a disciplined personality and remarkably refined tastes and talents. Many students, friends, and colleagues will recall him as a gourmet cook of the first rank. Some were acquainted with his accomplishments as a cultivator of rare roses. A few knew that he tailored his own suits by hand, exquisite products that captured the attention of the most discriminating taste.

Lodis Rhodes constructed a remarkable life, both as a professional and as an exemplar for others. His understanding of changing times and of stubborn, persistent social tensions and inequalities resulted in a personal commitment to issues of race and social justice. He used his administrative skills and innovative community research initiatives to affect his professional community and, especially, disadvantaged youth in Austin. While quiet in demeanor, for decades Rhodes challenged community youth, graduate students, and colleagues to understand and address some of the most pressing social issues of our time.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Professors Chandler Stolp (Chair), Norman Glickman, and Robert H. Wilson.

Distributed to the Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs on June 28, 2018, and posted under "Memorial Resolutions" at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.