NOYES LEECH: STUDENT, SCHOLAR, COLLEAGUE

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Spanning forty years, my memories of Noyes Leech are for the most part variations on a few basic themes: rigorous standards of thinking and scholarship, fierce devotion to this University and its Law School, and sensitive concern for people as individuals.

As a student in my first class on Sales, his quiet but penetrating comments helped to stiffen the standards of this neophyte teacher—one of the group of post-war faculty recruits known as the “Second Team.” His strong but sensitive leadership as Editor-in-Chief of this Law Review, and personal qualities I shall mention later, heightened our interest in persuading this brilliant young lawyer to leave practice and to come back to the School.

In Faculty deliberations we learned to listen closely to this new colleague whose quiet views reflected careful thought, the long view, and a rare and powerful tool—economy of words. These qualities led to positions of leadership in the University, climaxed by chairmanship of the Faculty Senate. If the Law School or University had a tough job that called for Noyes’ special talents and experience there was no need to ask twice.

Those who are competent in international and corporate law have reported on the enduring value of his scholarship in these fields.¹

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¹ See Dean Mundheim’s and Professor Oliver’s comments, infra.