MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR JONATHAN W. WALTON
read at
Meeting of the Faculty Assembly
The College of Liberal Arts
The University of Iowa
April 26, 1989

Professor Jonathan W. Walton was a member of the faculty of
the College and of the Department of History and the African-
American World Studies Program from 1977 through 1988. His death
on July 31, 1988 is deeply mourned by his colleagues and friends
at this university.

Jonathan Walton was born on September 15, 1945 and graduated
from Hyde Park High School in Chicago in 1962. He received the
baccalaureate degree from the University of Illinois in 1968. He
obtained his graduate training in history at Princeton
University, where he was awarded the Master's Degree in 1974 and
the Ph.D. in 1979.

Professor Walton's scholarship focused on comparative race
relations in Canada and the United States. His dissertation,
"Blacks in Buxton and Chatham, Ontario, 1830-1890: Did the 49th
Parallel Make a Difference?" innovatively explored the community
context of black experience in Canada and by comparison, the
United States. He sought to understand through court records,
newspapers, and the census the differences in race relations
between two North American nations, both with democratic
traditions and written constitutions. At the time of his death,
he was putting the final touches on a book manuscript that grew
out of his dissertation. Planning is underway for the
publication of the book, *A Land for 'Individuals of Any Class or
Colour?': A Case Study of Canadian and American Race Relations,
1790-1895*. The book is under contract with Greenwood Press and
will appear with the support of his family, the Department of
History and the Graduate College of the University of Iowa.

Professor Walton was actively pursuing new areas of research
that expanded the comparative dimensions of African-American
experience in North America. He was laying the groundwork for a
major study of the demobilization of ex-slaves recruited into the
ranks of the Union Army. His work was presented in papers before
the American Historical Association, the National Black Studies
Conference, the Organization of American Historians, the Canadian
Historical Association, the University of Iowa Humanities
Society, and the Great Lakes History Conference.

He held numerous awards and fellowships, including a National
Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship, a Southern
Fellowship Fund Research Award, a National Fellowships Fund
Award, and two Old Gold Awards from the University of Iowa.

Professor Walton contributed in a wide variety of ways to the
intellectual and cultural vitality of this university. He served
as both Assistant Chair and Acting Chair of the African-American World Studies Program. He was a caring and demanding mentor to both undergraduate and graduate students. His classes in Afro-American History were carefully crafted to launch students on what one of his colleagues has called "voyages of intellectual discovery" about significant historical questions. He was a spirited lecturer who engaged students in a process of inquiry that constantly connected the past in meaningful ways to the important issues of our own time. He believed in this university as a community, and he nurtured it daily.

Professor Malcolm Rohrbough, in a eulogy for Jonathan Walton, spoke for all of us in the College of Liberal Arts and the University, when he said, that "we are poorer" for Jonathan's passing, but the most deprived are "the next generations of students who will never know the genius of his craft and the warmth of his persuasive smile."