

**RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM E. COOKE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS**

William “Bill” Cooke received his B.S. in physics from William & Mary in 1972 and his Ph.D. in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. He joined the faculty at the University of Southern California, serving as Assistant Professor from 1978-1983, Associate Professor from 1983-1988, and Professor starting in 1988. In 1995, Professor Cooke returned to his alma mater as a Professor in the Physics department.

An American Physical Society Fellow, Professor Cooke’s research was extensively supported by external funding. His research interests ranged from basic questions about the interactions of atoms and light, to techniques to generate energy from alternative sources, to developing biomarkers for cancer discovery. All told, he garnered over \$8M in external awards, and the supported research resulted in three patents and 82 refereed publications. His teaching portfolio covered the full range of core physics courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. A prolific mentor of undergraduate students, he has mentored 14% of all physics senior thesis projects since his return to campus.

Professor Cooke served William & Mary expansively, including as the chair of his department from 2000-2005. He served as chair of many committees, including the Committee on Planning and Resources, Faculty Affairs Committee, Faculty Research Committee, Faculty University Priorities Committee, Retirement Incentive Working Group, and Educational Policy Committee. He also served on the Faculty Assembly, Business Innovation Steering Committee, Faculty University Priorities Committee, the BOV Athletics Committee, Provost Search Committee, Dean Evaluation Committee, Dean Search Committee, President’s Internationalization Committee, Dean’s Advisory Council, Assessment Searing Committee, and the Distance Learning Committee. Most recently, he was one of the leading forces in the implementation and roll out of the new Engineering Physics and Applied Design (EPAD) track.

In short, it is hard to overstate Professor Cooke’s contributions to the Physics program and to William & Mary more broadly over the last quarter century. He is a valuable archive of institutional memory and enthusiastic supporter of the developing engineering and design curriculum. The Physics department will benefit from his continued presence after his retirement and the Physics faculty looks forward to more years of collaboration.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of William E. Cooke; expresses its appreciation for his 27 years of service; and approves the change in status from Professor of Physics to Professor of Physics, Emeritus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy of the same be delivered to Professor Cooke with best wishes from a grateful Board for his years of dedicated service to William & Mary.