BROOKLYN COLLEGE

Naming of the Claire Tow Theater

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approve the naming of the theater in Whitman Hall at Brooklyn College, previously known as the Whitman Theater, as the Claire Tow Theater, which will be part of the previously named Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts.

EXPLANATION: Brooklyn College seeks to formally recognize the outstanding legacy of alumna Claire Tow, who passed away this year after a long battle with ALS. She and her husband, Leonard Tow, graduates of Brooklyn College in 1952 and 1950, respectively, have been amongst the strongest philanthropic supporters of Brooklyn College. Mrs. Tow was a co-founder of the cable television company, Century Communications Corporation, and the cellular telephone company, Centennial Cellular Corporation, and served as director and executive at both companies. Mrs. Tow was also President of The Tow Foundation, the largest single donor to Brooklyn College.

In 1993, through The Tow Foundation, which supports medical research and scientific, community, educational, and cultural organizations, the Tows established the Tow Professorships, as well as annual awards that are given to Brooklyn College faculty members for outstanding teaching and/or research. In 1998, Brooklyn College bestowed the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters on both Leonard and Claire Tow. In January 2004, the Tows pledged a challenge grant of $10 million—the largest gift in the College’s history—for a new Center for the Performing Arts, if the College mobilized a further $15 million. That $25 million became the nucleus for a $90 million project to provide new facilities for the College’s music and theater departments. The new facility was named the Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts in recognition of the Tows’ contributions. In further acknowledgement of their vision and generosity, the College wishes to integrate and consolidate all of its performing arts facilities under their name, and therefore requests that the theater previously known as the Whitman Theater be named the “Claire Tow Theater.”