

October 23, 2006

Dr. Joyce Jarrett, Provost  
Hampton University  
Hampton, VA 23668

Dear Dr. Jarrett,

It is my pleasure to write you in support of Shannon Chance and her promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. I have known Shannon since she was an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech, beginning in 1993, and have followed her through her career and evolution. From experience in working with Shannon at Virginia Tech, I had imagined that Shannon would find her way into teaching and also felt that if she did so, she would be very good at it. She always demonstrated an interest in the "subject beyond the subject," that more academic curiosity that not all students, even excellent designers, always possess. She has always been willing to pursue more difficult projects because of the challenge, idea or potential they offer.

While serving as department head at Virginia Tech, I became keenly involved in monitoring the development and nurturing of young faculty members. Though I have not been in constant touch with Shannon Chance in the most recent years, I find her record of accomplishments very promising and I would suspect, looking at her Curriculum Vitae, that her trajectory matches your institutional mission well. Her record in teaching, research, scholarship, service and professional development are all showing most positive development demonstrated through actual achievements.

The Department of Education grant to support travel of US Fulbright students to Tanzania, the ROTCH traveling studio grant, work in HUD grants, and the recognition and support from the Graham Foundation all are significant milestones indicative to me that Shannon has become a great asset to your institution. The economics of higher education are becoming more complex and demanding, requiring new roles of faculty involvement and engagement. The external recognition and funding represented by these projects in support of institutional growth and program innovation are essential and clearly Shannon has established herself in this area.

I have previously been very involved in conferences and national dialogue on the Beginning Design Student. It is most impressive to see Shannon's development and increasing presence in that organization, culminating in her co-chairmanship of the 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference. She is also clearly active in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and has a track record of presenting and publishing in that venue. This type of activity always brings national attention to a school and reinforces the external network and credibility expected of faculty members on whom we bestow academic tenure.

***Invent the Future***



It is outstanding to note that Shannon has continued her personal and professional development through obtaining her NCARB professional license, is a member of the American Institute of Architects and has established the recognition necessary to become a member of NAAB accreditation teams. Her service as Commissioner of Architectural Review in Portsmouth strongly indicates her recognition and involvement in architecture related service at the local and national levels.

Perhaps the most important observation I see goes beyond all of the necessary listings of achievements and activities; it is the question of coherence and intentionality. Shannon has established her voice and presence in a historically black institution. Through extramural support, she is bringing new program ideas into existence and bringing national and international attention to existing programs. As I would have hoped when I knew Shannon was pursuing a career in higher education, I am now delighted to see that virtually all of her activities have clear threads connecting accomplishments and activities especially bringing outreach, research and scholarship work back to the student learning agenda. I have observed that this important feature can sometimes be lost in young faculty members' rush to establish a research agenda. In Shannon Chance's CV I find a tremendous linkage and breadth that has and will continue to serve your institution well. Her university, regional and professional service work again reflects balance and coherency in areas of curriculum, diversity matters and community involvement. As a long time believer in the importance and impact of education abroad work (in fact, this letter is being written in Italy on a VT program with 37 undergraduate architecture students), I find Shannon's efforts in Tanzania and South Africa very significant and hope these ideas and programs will continue to receive institutional support and recognition.

In conclusion, I feel that Shannon has established a well-balanced portfolio of achievements and benchmarks that indicate she will be of enduring value to Hampton University and thus deserving of the award of tenure. She has established a foundation that clearly has developed roots, and connections among the many demands of a mature life as a university citizen. These achievements reflect a real commitment to your university's mission and ideals. In granting Shannon Chance academic tenure, I feel you will be making a wise choice and securing a strong position for your institution's future. I am available for further comment if you should wish to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Daniel". The signature is stylized with a large "R" and a cursive "Daniel".

Ronald W. Daniel  
Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education  
Professor of Architecture