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October 11, 2006

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

Dear Dr. Jarrett:

I am writing in strong support of Prof. Shannon Chance's application for tenure and promotion to associate professor. It is difficult to imagine anyone with a greater and clearer record of accomplishment in the areas of teaching, research, and service. What really distinguishes Shannon, however, is the commitment and passion that she brings to each and every undertaking.

First and foremost, I believe that I can speak best to the significance of Shannon's research within the greater context of architectural education and practice, because of my advanced training in architectural and social science research. Shannon's record of success in securing grants and support for her research is among the most accomplished that I have seen. Perhaps one or two senior architecture faculty members at my most recent institution, UC Berkeley, have been as successful. Without even considering her teaching credentials and other attributes, Shannon's research record and agenda make her extremely appealing to other institutions. That said, I doubt there are many schools that could steal Shannon's attention, as she is exceptionally proud of her association with Hampton.

For the sake of reference, Shannon and I have been colleagues and in regular communication for approximately four years. I have interacted with her in a variety of settings, ranging from academic and professional conferences to my visits to her classes and most recent trip to Hampton in October as a guest lecturer. In each interaction, I see Shannon as a leader, a thinker, a teacher, as well as a listener and learner. Shannon visibly inspires her students and colleagues. She also pushes people, challenging them to defend or rethink their ideas and positions.

Our initial communication grew out of her writing and research regarding diversity (and the unfortunate lack thereof) in virtually all aspects of the architecture profession. In a profession with a penchant for rarely discussing or even acknowledging even the most fundamental issues of race and gender, Shannon's perspective and words have proven to be enormously poignant and provocative. Her research and writings have impacted the highest echelons of the architectural establishment, including the American Institute of Architects and its peer academic and regulatory organizations where I have served extensively at the national level.

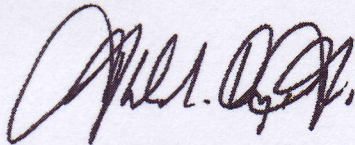
Being a female registered architect, Shannon represents a very high level of achievement in the architecture profession. Her determination to complete the licensure process can not be understated; it is an incredible accomplishment and one that well over half of all architecture school graduates never achieve. This reality, however, seems to drive Shannon to succeed and also motivates her to guide her past and present students through what is nothing short of an arduous process toward professional licensure (that spans, on average, seven years following graduation).

Finally, I am confident that Shannon embodies the spirit of Hampton University. In 2003, I had the good fortune of representing the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) in its accreditation of Hampton's Bachelor of Architecture program. Shannon's role in shaping and articulating the pedagogical underpinnings of the curriculum played no small role in our ability to assess the program. The NAAB formulates "minimum standards," which are applied to all accredited architecture programs. Building on this foundation, Shannon strives to also uphold the rigors of architectural education, demands of architectural practice, and appropriately high expectations of Hampton.

I give you my strongest endorsement of Shannon Chance as an outstanding candidate for tenure and promotion to associate professor. Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of someone that I consider a significant scholar, talented teacher, and trusted colleague.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at jcary@publicarchitecture.org or phone at 415/861-8200. I would be delighted to speak further on behalf of Shannon Chance, whom I hold in the highest regard.

Sincerely,



John Cary
Executive Director

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