

Academic Senate

Resolution Honoring Sheretha Benjamin

Whereas, Sheretha has served in the Senate office for 15 years and as an Analyst for 11 years; and

Whereas, Sheretha is the main reason why the Senate ran smoothly all these years; and

Whereas, Sheretha is always on top of things and knows what happens to every decision the Senate has made; and

Whereas, Sheretha has had to train a new Senate Chair roughly every two years and always maintained her composure even with this mix of personalities; and

Whereas, the Senate Chair inevitably comes up with an idea that was tried and didn't work or is just plain silly and Sheretha would carefully signal the Senate Chair that this was ridiculous through a casual eye-roll or "the look"; and

Whereas, Sheretha not only keeps the Senate on task but also makes meetings fun; and

Whereas, the Senate Executive Committee can always count on Sheretha's discreet minutes; and

Whereas, her dry humor made many Senate Executive Committee meetings far more enjoyable and will be sorely missed; and

Whereas, she has the patience of someone watching paint dry (which is what wordsmithing is like); and

Whereas, the local Subway is going to suffer a catastrophic loss of revenue with her retirement; and

Whereas, the comforting smell of Sheretha's morning hot cocoa has become an unofficial part of the Senate office atmosphere and will be deeply missed; and

Whereas, Sheretha has a remarkable talent for giving people nicknames so fitting that some colleagues eventually answer only to the names she gave them; and

Whereas, being given a nickname by Sheretha became an unofficial rite of passage and a true sign of friendship within the Senate office; and

Whereas, Sheretha's vacation stories motivate us all to engage in much needed self-care; and

Whereas, the Senate is just a little better of a place with her; and

Whereas, her institutional knowledge spans multiple administrations, innumerable motions, and at least several eras of parliamentary interpretation; and

Whereas, no agenda has ever escaped her discerning eye unpolished, uncirculated, or improperly formatted; and

Whereas, she has consistently guided discussions back to the agenda, even when the agenda was only a distant suggestion; and

Whereas, she has quietly and heroically prevented countless "off-the-record" comments from achieving immortality in the written record; and

Whereas, she has helped to ensure that every committee has members, even when those members did not yet realize they were destined to serve; and

Whereas, during meetings of heroic duration, she has safeguarded the morale of the Senate through the timely provision of cookies, lemonade, and other essential provisions; and

Whereas, Sheretha has patiently shared her wisdom, humor, and unmatched Senate knowledge while training the next generation to carry on the work she has done so effortlessly for years; and

Whereas, Sheretha has officially begun passing the torch, though no amount of training can truly prepare anyone to fill her shoes or master "the look" quite like she has; and

Whereas, the smooth functioning of the Academic Senate has, for fifteen years, depended in no small part on her vigilance, judgment, and good humor; and therefore, be it

Resolved, that Sheretha will continue to practice "the look" and eye roll with as much enthusiasm as she reserves for current and former Senate Chairs; and be it further

Resolved, that Sheretha will always be welcome back for a Senate cookie and lemonade with friends anytime; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Senate is forever grateful for the significant contribution and steady support Sheretha has provided for so many years.