

# The University of the South

## Resolution

On the occasion of the retirement of Eric Benjamin from the University of the South, it is appropriate that we commend and pay tribute to him on this memorable day, Thursday, February 25, 2021

**Whereas**, Eric Benjamin served the University of the South as a faithful and devoted employee for 39 years as the first director of multicultural affairs; and

**Whereas**, his genuine concern for others and for this place has deeply touched countless students, alumni, colleagues, and community members; and

**Whereas**, through his highly capable and devoted service as an ambassador for the University, he nurtured and strengthened the ties among Sewanee's students and alumni, and in so doing fostered enormous good will for the University in a way that is inspiring, unique, and unmatched; and

**Whereas**, it is equally important to acknowledge Eric's humble acts of service, personally helping students through financial or logistical needs, never needing recognition; and

**Whereas**, he performed his duties with steadfast loyalty and dedication, and repeatedly demonstrated his commitment and love for this University through dedicated service to four vice-chancellors; and

**Whereas**, Eric and his wife Michelle have welcomed countless alumni to their home for the traditional Mr. B party at Homecoming and Reunion weekends; where Mrs. B, an attorney by day, caused party guests to fight over her famous wings; and

**Whereas**, as a student of the college class of 1973, he distinguished himself as an English major, a member of the Lamda Chi Alpha fraternity, and was elected as president of the Sewanee Jazz Society; and

**Whereas**, also as a student, Eric was elected as the chair of the Honor Council in 1972, the first Black student to be elected to one of the three main student organizations on campus; and

**Whereas**, during his time at Sewanee, Eric co-founded the Sewanee Summer Scholars Program, a bridge program for high school students who spent their summers on the Domain strengthening their skills in math, science, personal development, and writing in preparation for college and was also one of the principal members of the Consortium for High Achievement and Success, an organization that focused on the success of African American and Latino males on college campuses; and

**Whereas**, with his wife Michelle, became a proud Sewanee parent when son Michael matriculated with the Class of 2008,

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that all those associated with the University of the South express their profound gratitude for his outstanding service, his devotion to students, and his loyalty to the University, and wish him Godspeed and best wishes.

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*Reuben E. Brigety, II*  
Vice Chancellor and President

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*Susan Askew*  
Associate Vice President of Alumni and Parent Programs