Resolution in Honor of Dr. Mougo Nyaggah

Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable – Kenyan proverb

Whereas Dr. Mougo Nyaggah joined the faculty of California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in 1973 as an assistant professor of history and was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and served the CSUF community with dedication for nearly 40 years; and

Whereas Dr. Mougo Nyaggah earned his bachelor’s degree in history from St. Mary’s College of California in 1965, his master’s degree in history in 1967 from the University of California (UC), Berkeley, and his Ph.D. in African history in 1974 from UC Berkeley; and

Whereas Dr. Mougo Nyaggah’s doctoral dissertation at UC Berkeley was entitled “Social Origins of the Asante Traditional Administrators: 1700-1900;” and

Whereas Dr. Mougo Nyaggah authored the paper “Asians in East Africa: The Case of Kenya” in the Journal of African Studies in 1974; and

Whereas Dr. Mougo Nyaggah co-edited the book Independence Without Freedom: The Political Economy of Colonial Education in Southern Africa with Agrippah Mugomba in 1980; and

Whereas Dr. Mougo Nyaggah authored papers entitled “Material Culture and Social Change Among the Embu and Kikuyu” and “Development of Apartheid Laws in South Africa, 1910-1948” in association with the Department of History at the University of Nairobi; and

Whereas Dr. Nyaggah for decades has served on the Fullerton Chapter Board of the California Faculty Association (CFA) in multiple leadership positions, including Assembly Delegate, PAC/Leg Chair, CFA Vice President, and—since 2007—as CFA Fullerton Chapter President; and

Whereas Dr. Nyaggah served on the CSU Fullerton Academic Senate and Faculty Affairs Committee since 2007; and

Whereas Dr. Nyaggah was recognized with the WHO (We Honor Ours) Chapter Award in 2005; and

Whereas Dr. Nyaggah truly believed “in union there is strength,” sharing his experiences as a teamster in his younger days and quoting Benjamin Franklin “We must all hang together, or assuredly, we shall all hang separately” in rallying students and faculty; and

Whereas Dr. Mougo Nyaggah always wore a tie and jacket, even when also sporting a CFA t-shirt; and

Whereas Dr. Mougo Nyaggah, in spite of his easy-going cadence and ready smile, was extremely competitive when challenged to increase CFA Fullerton Chapter membership rates and regularly walked the halls to recruit new members and share information with existing members; and

Whereas Nyaggah’s invitations to CFA board meetings, guest speakers, welcome back receptions, workshops, and other CFA-related events often included “Gourmet Pizza” as enticement; and

Whereas Dr. Nyaggah was wont to lead his announcements in the Academic Senate with a hearty “Good morning” and expected and encouraged a robust “Good morning” in response from the body; and
Whereas Dr. Nyaggah was a passionate advocate of the California Master Plan for affordable, accessible, and high-quality higher education, a message he carried in regular meetings with legislators in their district offices and at the Capitol in Sacramento; and

Whereas Dr. Nyaggah generously contributed financial support to causes important to faculty and society; and

Whereas Dr. Nyaggah often concluded his midnight missives about upcoming CFA events with the phrase, “Have a peaceful evening” and encouraged unity and harmony; therefore be it

Resolved that the Academic Senate, CSU Fullerton send condolences to Mougo’s wife Lynette and his family and wish them comfort and peace in recognizing and celebrating all that Mougo brought to our community; and be it further

Resolved that the Academic Senate, CSU Fullerton declare that Dr. Mougo Nyaggah will forever stand as a model to all as a champion of public higher education and a passionate advocate for student access to high-quality learning opportunities; and be it further

Resolved that we all learn from Dr. Mougo Nyaggah’s commitment to lifelong learning, his wisdom, his generous actions to help others in our community and beyond realize their dreams, his commitment to future generations, and his deep-down belief and embodiment through actions that “Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable”—we are stronger together; and be it finally

Resolved that we all commit, in memory of our good friend and colleague, to working hard for just causes with the strongest conviction and dedication, as Mougo modeled throughout his personal and professional life in our community and beyond our shores.