Faculty Senate Resolution in Honor of Vice President of Undergraduate Enrollment, Campus Life, and Inclusive Excellence Fanta Aw, March 1, 2023:

Whereas Fanta Aw is AU’s Vice President of Campus Life, Inclusive Excellence, and Undergraduate Enrollment and will leave her position in March;

Whereas she is a Triple Eagle (Kogod/BS ’90, SPA/MD ’94, and CAS/PhD ’11), has served as Hurst Senior Professorial Lecturer in the School of International Service since 2013, and received numerous university awards for teaching and service;

Whereas she has served the university since 1992 in a series of increasingly important roles, first as Director of International Student and Scholar Services; then as Assistant Vice President of Campus Life; and finally as Vice President of Campus Life, to which were added portfolios on Inclusive Excellence and Undergraduate Enrollment;

Whereas she has been a critical member of the president’s cabinet since 2017 and has taken the lead on major university initiatives, including the development and implementation of AU’s Inclusive Excellence strategy and the coordination of AU’s COVID-19 response, among many other initiatives to strengthen our community;

Whereas as a sociologist focused on the political economy of international higher education, she has been frequently looked to by major US and international organizations and media outlets for her expertise;

Whereas she is an award-winning teacher on issues on immigration, the internationalization of higher education, and international higher education policy;

Whereas she is widely recognized as a person of excellent judgment with an impressive ability to talk to and understand persons from a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives, and roles in the community;
Whereas she is well known to the Faculty Senate and is considered by many of us to be a friend and valued interlocutor;

Whereas she will begin her new role as executive director and chief executive officer of NAFSA: Association of International Educators in March 2023;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate, on behalf of the faculty of American University, commends Vice President Aw; expresses its gratitude for her leadership, commitment to the health of our community, and friendship; declares that American University is a better place to study, teach, and work because of her; and wishes her well in her new position and indeed in all her future endeavors.