

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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July 21, 2022

Re.: Pre-Tenure Review letter of support

I am writing in support of the pre-tenure review for **Dr. Trey Shirley**. I have carefully reviewed Dr. Shirley's curriculum vitae, brief vita narratives, and the College of Arts and Sciences promotion and tenure guidelines for the pre-tenure review. In this response, I will discuss his contributions in the area of Scholarship as it relates specifically to the design and execution of schematic and finished drawings for Abilene Family Practice, a medical clinic building completed in 2016.

Dr. Shirley and I have shared common interests because of our passion for architectural design and construction. I have had the chance to interact with him while reviewing plans, discussing design options, and troubleshooting construction dilemmas related to different projects. On each one of these occasions, I have recognized his expertise and specific knowledge of architectural history, design, and construction methodology. Trey combines knowledge with praxis, exemplified in the Abilene Family Practice building design and subsequent execution.

The Abilene Family Practice is an excellent example of the type of scholarship that Trey brings to ACU and our department. The Faculty Handbook states, "Abilene Christian University expects that each faculty member will provide evidence (i.e., product) of his or her professional competence through scholarship and other creative activities appropriate to the discipline." ACU Faculty Handbook, p 20, 2021

The Abilene Family Practice building project is an excellent example of Dr. Shirley's professional competence as a designer. As described in the supporting documents in his portfolio, he spent considerable time developing a design program adequate to the present medical practice needs and considered future expansion. The development of a design program is a preferred practice in architecture that enables one to understand the scope of a project and to identify the future needs of any major construction.

Similarly, Trey developed over one thousand sketches, diagrams, and drawings to explore the complex aspects of such a large facility. I saw many of these drawings during the design development stage of the project and recognized the quality and depth of his analysis. This type of practice is directly related to the field of architecture and interior design, and Trey incorporates it into his teaching. During the most recent reaccreditation visit for our Interior Design program, we included examples of course assignments from his class that illustrated concept development and the application of the design process. In that instance, we showcased several assignments from Two-Dimensional Design (ART 105) taught by Dr. Shirley. The assignment's descriptions and the student's examples reflected the same process and depth I had seen in the Abilene Family Practice project. This evidenced that his scholarship influences and shapes his teaching.

Many of my Interior Design and Architecture students have made correlations in their upper-level classes when discussing the design process with their experiences in Dr. Shirley's Two-D class. This type of early introductions helps the students better assimilate and apply complex steps like those of the design process.

In sum, there is no question that Dr. Shirley is an asset to our department. He is a leader and firmly committed to ACU and the advancement of our students. I am sure he will continue to make essential contributions to his students, the community, our profession, and the Art and Design Department. I also believe that he will consistently incorporate the most innovative and latest scholarship and methods into his teaching and will continue to contribute to the department, college, University, and our community in meaningful and essential ways.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Rama". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ronnie Rama
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