

To The Members of the Tenure and Promotion Committee,

It's my pleasure to write a letter of support for Dr. Trey Shirley's promotion. I'd like to speak specifically to Trey's integration of faith and learning. I've worked closely with Trey in two contexts that have persuaded me he is both an excellent fit with ACU and he is a valuable resource for our students.

First, in spring 2014, Trey and I co-taught a section of CORE 210 Human Identity and Community. In that context I observed his conscientious and deliberate planning for classes to ensure that our students were challenged to think. What also stood out to me was the natural way his faith emerged in his teaching. He is a person of principles and conviction, which are clearly shaped by his faith. He also is a person who enjoys learning new things and can pick up new subjects and skills simply by studying them. This model of a life-long learner is on display for our students every time Trey gets up to teach.

The second context I'd like to mention is Trey's role as the Director of Cornerstone. For a year I worked closely with Trey on an advisory/planning team of several faculty commissioned to help make recommendation to improve Cornerstone. What the faculty team appreciated was that Trey was always several steps ahead of us in his organization and planning. I also noted the ways Trey was always considering the student perspective and the student experience. He wanted to orchestrate the best possible curriculum to help the students learn and to help the students grow in their faith.

One of the telling ways to assess a colleague's teaching (and their integration of faith and learning in the classroom) is to ask if you would recommend them to one of your students, or one of your own children. I would do both. It's my pleasure to strongly recommend Trey for promotion.

Sincerely,

Houston Heflin