

June 12, 2017
University Tenure and Promotion Committee
Abilene Christian University

Re: Recommendation of Trey Shirley for Promotion to Assistant Professor

Dear Tenure and Promotion Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to recommend our colleague Trey Shirley for promotion to assistant professor. I do so primarily in the capacity of someone who has worked alongside Trey in university committee assignments, and I am addressing primarily his service to the university.

I've known and worked with Trey for the past two years in his leadership role as part of ACU's Cornerstone program. During that time I've found him to be an insightful thinker, strong communicator, and helpful colleague. We jointly serve on a university-wide task force that plans New Student Orientation and Wildcat Week, and we value his input and expertise. He helps us consider the onboarding process from the vantage point of the academic expectations of the first year of a student's college experience, which is a vital perspective. He is a respected and trusted member of this committee, and our common work is better because of his participation and voice.

Part of what makes Trey's contribution to the university unique—indeed, remarkable—is his comfort with cross-disciplinary service and collaboration. Because of his training in diverse fields, from theology to fine arts, he is able to understand and appreciate a wide variety of perspectives. He seems to be an ideal fit in the Cornerstone role for this reason, over and above all the other committees on which he serves.

While I was not asked to address the category of collegiality for Trey, let me suggest that the respect and admiration many of us in other disciplines have for him arises out of his personal warmth and generosity of spirit. Trey is a great person to be around, devoid of the rough edges that some of us in the academy display. I consider myself fortunate to work and serve alongside him at ACU. It is in ACU's best interest to promote him to the rank of assistant professor at the present time, and to make further promotions and a grant of tenure when appropriate in the future, so that he can continue his contributions to the university.

To summarize, as it relates to Trey's promotion to assistant professor, I can confidently attest that his service is exemplary, and the university would be worse off without him. I am happy to offer this letter of recommendation on his behalf because of his commitment to the mission of ACU, its students, the Cornerstone program, and his colleagues in other colleges and departments. If I can expand on anything contained in this letter, or if you need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Andrew Little
Associate Dean, College of Business Administration
Associate Professor of Business Law
Abilene Christian University