



21 July 2014

Dear Tenure and Promotion Committee,

I am writing in support of Dr. Autumn Sutherlin for promotion and recognition as a full professor at Abilene Christian University. I know by reputation of Autumn's enthusiastic and innovative classroom teaching. I would also like to commend her teaching involvement in the ACU Study Abroad Program because our science majors have specific and rigorous needs that are not easily met off campus without the support of dedicated professors like Dr. Sutherlin. However, I will elaborate more about the ways that she has impacted me through her research, service, and collegiality.

Autumn has consistently pursued rigorous undergraduate research in biochemistry and played a central role in the elevation of biochemistry to academic prominence at ACU. Autumn has also been a trailblazer in molecular biology at ACU, rejuvenating the program and paving the way for a wave of DNA-based research that has grown exponentially over the last decade. Autumn's research students have won awards for presentation of their investigations of biochemical pathways, and I am thankful to say that some of her well-trained students have even contributed to my own biological research as well.

Autumn has served on several significant faculty committees during my brief time at ACU, but foremost in importance to me has been her service in the Office of Undergraduate Research and planning of the highly successful ACU Undergraduate Research Festival. Both of these institutions were created in the time since Autumn's arrival at ACU and have experienced extensive growth and modification requiring considerable attention. Autumn and others have worked very hard to be good stewards of limited resources while nurturing a research community that still appears to be in the heart of its growth phase at ACU. A particularly challenging facet of this work that Autumn has performed well is the harmonious combination of the diverse academic disciplines that are served by the Office of Undergraduate Research and displayed through the Research Festival. This remains an exciting area of growth and synergy at ACU, and, as director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, Autumn has taken on one of the most critical challenges for the future of our university.

One of Autumn's gifts as a faculty member has been community building. As a member of the science faculty, Autumn has helped generate greater social connections between faculty and students and between faculty from different departments, especially within the core sciences of biology, chemistry, and physics. In my experience, Autumn has helped build these relationships primarily through her commitment to the supportive

community of Minter Lane Church of Christ. As a fellow member, our frequent gatherings for meals and other social occasions have had a critical role in improving the collegiality among these departments, which have been known in the past to become competitive. As we face the future of new, shared science facilities, these growing connections leave us better prepared to live out the Christ-like example we seek to represent.

Due to these experiences, I think that Autumn Sutherlin is the kind of professor that we need to retain and want representing our uppermost level of academic achievement at Abilene Christian University. If I can provide additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Brokaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

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