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To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend John Homer for tenure at Abilene Christian University. When John asked me to write this letter, I immediately accepted. Over the last four years, John has mentored me, helped me with my own courses, collaborated with me, and become a good friend. I know that he has worked hard for tenure and, in my opinion, deserves it.

When I first arrived at ACU, I taught as an adjunct in the School of Information Technology and Computing. I had never taught college before, but my first semester I was handed two classes. John is the person who helped those classes be a success. He took the time to mentor me, field my questions, give me his syllabus for the other section which he was teaching, and even helped me write my tests. Without John, that semester would have turned out very poorly. However, thanks to his help, I received excellent feedback from students and discovered a love of teaching. This past year as I stepped into the role of full time faculty, John has continued mentoring me. He has taken the time to help me work through the difficulties of full time college teaching, both in and out of the classroom. From advice on what to do with delinquent students to advice on how to navigate life in our department, John has continued to help me like no one else on faculty.

As I continue to work with John, I've seen over and over again his love of teaching, his energy in the classroom, and his passion for helping students. John wants his students to succeed academically, but he also wants them to mature personally and grow spiritually, and he goes out of his way to do this. John regularly participates in extra departmental activities, such as leading our small group chapel with me, going to SITC's monthly game nights, inviting students over to his home, and holding more office hours than any other faculty member I know. He is always ready to help students with both school and life.

Finally, John is well-known by students in SITC as one of the most interesting, fun, and difficult professors – not an easy combination to master! Not only is he a very good teacher, but he is always looking for ways to improve his courses. Within the last few years, John has been innovating and reimagining our first-semester freshmen majors' course (Programming I) by flipping it and providing a wealth of useful notes, videos, and code examples online for students to work at their own pace. In Spring 2014, I was able to teach this new class. John handed me a course that was ready to go and I facilitated it while working to increase the online resources. The results were fantastic: students loved it and I was able to spend time teaching and helping students instead of re-creating the whole course.

I hope that through this letter I have described why John is an excellent fit as a permanent fixture in the community of ACU faculty. I know of very few people who have worked as hard as John. Please accept my full recommendation that John Homer be given tenure at ACU.

Sincerely,

James Prather