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To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend John Homer for promotion to the rank of full professor at Abilene Christian University. When I recommended John for tenure, I highlighted his collegiality and teaching. In this letter, I will focus on his scholarship, service, collegiality, and teaching.

From the very beginning of my Ph.D. program, John was there to offer his expert opinion and help in my coursework when needed. Even more than that, John was a collaborating scholar on my dissertation project. John is a co-author on the papers published out of my dissertation because several of the experiments took place within his Programming I classes. Furthermore, he helped to refine my ideas, edit the papers for submission, and prepare for presentation. In this regard, John clearly excelled in the discipline of scholarship as he actively mentors younger scholars under him. All of my work is better for it.

John also recently took on the role of Director of the School of Information Technology and Computing in the Fall of 2016, an extremely demanding role that highlights his commitment to service. Running an academic department certainly has its challenges, and I have seen John navigate those difficulties with tact and poise. Our department usually gets along quite well, but occasionally there is stiff disagreement and I have seen John handle these with the care they deserve. He has been neutral in his arbitration of differences between faculty and even made decisions against his personal preferences when it was necessary. I have never seen John work harder than in these past two years, but he has succeeded thus far in this incredibly challenging role.

Finally, John and I led a Study Abroad trip to Oxford, England, during the summer of 2017. It was a fun experience to co-teach a course with him, as well as lead trips to various sites around England together. Having never taught a class together with another professor, I was nervous about what it would be like, but we quickly figured out a rhythm and had quite a bit of fun both preparing for class and in the classroom. One thing that stands out to me about this trip is how John consistently put others first. My wife and I brought our two small children (3.5 and 1.5 years at the time) while John and his wife left their kids with the grandparents, so I greatly appreciated it when John stepped up and took charge when I could not. He also helped watch my children and played with them on several occasions. When my limited capacity was full, John was there to help and take the lead when necessary, something for which I am very grateful. This is just one example of why John is one of the most collegial professors that I know.

I hope that in this letter I have explained why I think John Homer meets the criteria for promotion to full professor. He continues to display the qualities that we wish in our faculty and is well-suited to represent the very best that ACU has to offer in the field of technology.

Sincerely,

James Prather