

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Educating Students for Christian Service and Leadership Throughout the World

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22 September 2014.

I am writing this letter to help and support the tenure and promotion process for Dr. Jennifer Huddleston. On September 17th 2014 a pretenure review meeting was held with the following biology faculty: Dr. Dan Brannan, Dr. Jim Nichols, Dr. Qiang Xu, and myself (Dr. Tom Lee) the chair of the biology department. Dr. Patricia Hernandez could not attend the meeting, however, she gave me her very positive comments before we met. Dr. Greg Straughn the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences was there to give us his helpful advice on the portfolio of Dr. Jennifer Huddleston who was there to answer our questions and hear what we had to say.

The format of Dr. Huddleston's portfolio we reviewed is reflective and well organized. Before I begin with my description of the portfolio I need to stress that the committee found very little to be critical about with this portfolio. Dr. Greg Straughn said that parts of the portfolio were the best he had ever seen.

Scholarship:

Dr. Huddleston's attitude toward her scholarship is first how will the projects she picks benefit students and how can others (including her fellow faculty) contribute to the project. This is a very selfless way to look at a science project. The committee was most impressed with this philosophy. Her research is first rate and we have all benefitted from her insight.

Teaching:

In the sciences we are taught how to do research in graduate school. Very infrequently are we taught how to teach a class. Dr. Huddleston has done an excellent job at presenting the process of learning to be a teacher in her portfolio. She presents the early mistakes she has made and how she has learned from them. Then she shows reader the process of how she transformed the class by the way she corrected those early mistakes. The learning process has transformed Dr. Huddleston into one of the best teachers that we could ever hope for.

Collegiality:

Dr. Huddleston is an indispensable member of the department of biology because of her willingness to serve others. She has conducted department chapels that were uplifting to all the students and faculty. She has further demonstrated her collegiality by editing manuscripts that were eventually published. She is a friend and treats her fellow faculty members with kindness and respect.

Service:

We in the biology department, the university, and the community of Abilene are very grateful for the service that Dr. Huddleston has demonstrated. She has shown service to the department by mentoring students in and out of the classroom. She has shown service to the university by serving on committees and judging at the science fair. Finally she has shown service to her community by working with others to teach science to young students (in middle school) and by teaching Sunday school. Keep in mind that

Dr. Huddleston is a mother to two young children and understandably she devotes a considerable amount of time to them as well.

I hope this letter demonstrates that we the committee were all very impressed with clarity of Dr. Jennifer Huddleston's portfolio. We were also very impressed by Dr. Huddleston's accomplishments and by her commitment to excellence for our students and the university. I am very confident that Dr. Huddleston will continue on this pathway of excellence for the rest of her career. We are all truly blessed to have her as a friend and coworker.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas E. Lee, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas E. Lee, Jr.

Chair of the Biology Department