



To: Tenure and Promotion Committee,

I am writing to provide my strong support of Dr. Jim Drachenberg's application for Tenure. He is an excellent example of every quality we hope to find in tenured faculty at ACU: knowledge of his subject area, teaching ability, collegiality, and Christian service. I have been able to grow in my abilities as a professor through working with him over the last 2 years.

I have known Jim since we were in classes together as undergraduates at ACU. He has always been someone I know I could rely on for advice and help at any time. He sets a strong example of what it means not only to be a successful professor through his knowledge and skills as a physicist but also as a Christian through his love and care for his colleagues, students, and family. He takes significant time to ensure his students have opportunities to grow in both knowledge of physics and in wisdom through Christ.

I have worked on several things with Jim since he has come back as a faculty member. We worked together on the physics curriculum committee to find ways to improve our curriculum and Jim has taken a leading role in our Engineering Physics courses and laboratories as well as working with several faculty to add computational skills to every physics course. He has rewritten the lab curriculum for our Engineering Physics I lab and these changes have been met with significant positive feedback from students. He also helped craft and evaluate updates and modifications to the degree plans that were approved last year. He has also been a critical ear for many of my ideas for my courses I teach as I seek to improve them. His advice has been valuable and foresighted and allowed me to avoid pitfalls that I would have missed otherwise. He is easily approachable both for students and other faculty. I have also seen several things he has done for the Adam's center as they have helped faculty prepare for the changes needed during the COVID pandemic. He has proven to be a leader within our department.

Jim also strongly supports the students in the Engineering and Physics Department. First he serves our Society of Physics Students chapter as a co-advisor with me. His service to this group of students makes significant impacts and helps broaden their skills through providing them leadership skills, presentation skills, and teaching skills. With his help our chapter continues to maintain Outstanding Chapter Awards that are given to less than 10% of the chapters nationwide. He also serves as an important mentor for students within our department. Last year he was a mentor for two McNair scholars and numerous other students worked with him in his research on the STAR collaboration. Students working with Jim on this experiment are working alongside graduate students, professors, and scientists from numerous R1 institutions and national labs across the USA and world. These experiences and the mentoring provided by Jim enable ACU students to stand out above the rest.

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I have provided just a short set of examples of how Jim has positively affected our department at ACU. I hope you can see through them that he is an excellent candidate for being awarded tenure for his efforts. I continue to be thankful that he is part of our faculty at ACU.

Sincerely,

Dr. Larry Isenhower
Associate Professor
Department of Engineering and Physics