

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Educating Students for Christian Service and Leadership Throughout the World

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August 1, 2013

Dear Members of the ACU Tenure and Promotion Committee,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Dr. Lynette Austin's application for tenure and promotion in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. I have had the pleasure of knowing *of* Lynette for a number of years through friendship with her mother and her parents-in-law, but first met her when I audited an ACU sign language course that she taught as an adjunct instructor sometime during the late 80s or early 90s. Lynette was a fairly recent ACU graduate at the time and she impressed me. She was a confident, calm and very organized teacher. She handled a large class efficiently with a sense of humor and my impression was that the level of expectation was high, but reasonable. Students in her class enjoyed the challenge of learning.

Many years later she returned to ACU as a full time faculty member. Though we teach in different buildings and have entirely different student populations, we occasionally talked at Adam's Center events and I learned about her experiences on the mission field in South America and about her passion for bilingual speech pathology. As the pre-medical adviser, I have committed to arranging a regular study abroad program focused on Global Healthcare. This program has been based in our ACU facilities in Montevideo, Uruguay. As we conversed, Lynette and I began to think about how we might incorporate communication science and disorders students in the Global Health study abroad program in Montevideo.

The result of our conversation was that during the summer of 2012, Lynette and I went to Montevideo with a group of 13 students, some pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-nursing, and some undergraduate communication science and disorders students. Lynette taught a course in her major. I taught the course in Global Healthcare that all of the students took. Lynette was a regular participant in this course and contributed to the course content and organization. With the assistance of the on-site directors, Wimon and Rosalinda Walker, we were able to visit schools, hospitals, and clinics and interact with many local health care professionals. Lynette's ability to speak Spanish fluently and her understanding of South American culture in addition to her experience and ability as a speech pathologist were great assets to the Global Healthcare study abroad program. She and her students brought a new perspective to thinking about how culture impacts healthcare and I believe that all of the students benefitted from the interdisciplinary interaction.

After an intense 7 weeks of living in the same apartment in Montevideo and spending countless hours together, I feel like I know Lynette well. She is a remarkable person. She has a deep heart for students and for those who are struggling with language and cultural adjustments. She is a very demanding teacher, who has high expectations for her students, but provides the tools and assistance that her students need to be successful. She is a devoted mother and wife who models balance in commitment to career, community and family. She loves the Lord with every moment of her life. She has a great sense of humor and is easy to work with. She is an excellent role model and someone who is willing to spend the time necessary to mentor students as they make important decisions during their college years. In short, she is the kind of person who is a superior ACU faculty member. I am thankful for the opportunity that I've had to learn from her.

Sincerely,

Cynthia B. Powell, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Chemistry

Chair, Health Professions Advisory Committee

Abilene Christian University