



September 8, 2022

Dear ACU Tenure and Promotion Committee:

It is an honor to write a letter supporting Dr. Mac Ice's application for Associate Professor and for Tenure, specifically addressing his Collegiality. I asked Dr. Ice some time ago if I could pen such, and now I am submitting this letter right before the portfolio deadline! Part of me says this is due to the rush of the semester starting, but mainly what I want to communicate is that this letter represents what I hope is the best of Abilene Christian University—that we work diligently, even to the last minute, throughout the year to support the mission of this fine Christian institution of higher education. That is what Mac Ice represents—and I am sure he meets deadlines much better than I!

For several years now, I have had multiple formal and informal interactions with Dr. Ice. First, there are a number of sets of public papers stored in the Special Collections area of Brown Library. In just this one area these include boxes and boxes of items and documents donated to the University from Congressmen, a Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice (Jack Pope), state legislators, government officials, etc. Mainly the Omar Burleson papers needed work to prepare an index, laborious work and which required a student worker, something which my Department was willing to supply. I have worked directly with Dr. Ice for a number of hours over the past several years to facilitate this project through several good students and in the process achieve what Special Collections and we both have hope to achieve, a "win-win" for the Library and those who want to access these papers. In all our interactions, Dr. Ice is tremendously knowledgeable, helpful, and directive for what the University and the Library hope to provide for students and the public. He is the consummate archivist, and demonstrates the high quality of service for which ACU strives.

As a part of these activities, I have joined Dr. Ice on one trip (he makes several, and just last week returned from almost two weeks of collecting for ACU and the Restoration Center) to Washington, D.C. some four years ago, to evaluate and prepare for shipment the papers of Rep. Ted Poe, along with my interest in donated memorabilia from Rep. Poe. What a great trip! But what also is important for me to say in a letter commenting on Collegiality and reflecting on our institution's values and heritage, Dr. Ice and I then spent a spare couple of hours in the National Gallery, and he photographed multiple crosses in art and various masterpieces to include in class material for his local congregation, University Church of Christ. It is that dedication to ACU, and to the Church, that I saw in just that one trip that really typify who Dr. Ice is, and his value to our faculty and to the Library.

I am glad to call Dr. Ice a friend and colleague here at Abilene Christian, and urge you to positively approve his application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Neal Coates'.

Neal Coates, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice