



Department of History and Global Studies

September 1, 2022

To the Tenure and Promotion Committee

Dear Colleagues,

It is my privilege to write in support of Mac Ice's application for tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. After a brief introduction, I would like to speak to two aspects of his portfolio: teaching effectiveness and collegiality.

Since his arrival at ACU in 2013, I have worked closely with Professor Ice on three particular history courses that I taught in partnership with Special Collections: Historical Methods; Jacksonian America; and Gilded Age and Progressive Era. The Methods class uses a service-learning approach that requires each student to work 30 hours on a project in ACU Special Collections. The other two courses require students to complete research projects based on sets of primary sources selected from Special Collections. He has also aided my classes through guest lectures in general education courses and Cornerstone.

Teaching effectiveness: For each upper level history course held in partnership with the Special Collections, Professor Ice and I collaborate on selecting relevant readings, assignments, and details for the final product. For the classes that are scheduled to meet for the semester in the Special Collections reading area, Ice and his staff prepare for each meeting by pulling relevant materials from the collections. Further, he gives lectures throughout the semester depending on the topic. For example, he has provided background on the Churches of Christ, the history of ACU, and best practices for archival management. In addition, Professor Ice introduces each class to the significance of a special collections and takes the students on a behind-the-scenes tour of the ACU "vaults." Our "professor" conversations in class model humility and curiosity for the students as he and I give space, one for the other, to ask questions and provide insight. In short, students enrolled in my history courses have benefited from Professor Ice's expertise, understanding of historical methodology, and his approachable personality. Additionally, I will partner with him this year in Honors Cornerstone for the annotated bibliography assignment and I am pleased students will benefit from his expertise.

Collegiality: When Professor Ice arrived at ACU as a new faculty member, I had been working in partnership with Special Collections for several years, and he quickly developed an interest in contributing to the courses that I teach and has become a valued partner. Mac is quite a Church of Christ scholar and so I have learned from him, perhaps even more than the students! His willingness to engage across disciplines and departments shows well his fit for ACU. Additionally, his service on the UGEC provides important connections between the library and departments.

I am honored to support him, without hesitation, in his application for tenure and promotion. Thank you for your consideration of Professor Ice's application. He is a valued colleague.

Tracy M Shilcutt, PhD
Professor, Department of History and Global Studies
Associate Dean, Honors College
Abilene Christian University