

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Educating Students for Christian Service and Leadership Throughout the World

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September 7, 2015

To: Tenure and Promotion Committee, Abilene Christian University

From: Dr. John B. Weaver, Dean of Library Services and Educational Technology

RE: Dr. Orneita Burton's Promotion to Full Professor

Dear Colleagues,

This letter is written in support of Orneita Burton's promotion to full professor at ACU. I recommend this action to you based on my experience of Dr. Burton's preparation of her courses and her research into management practices and business technology.

I would submit two primary points of evidence that Dr. Burton's teaching excellence and also her research are both deserving of her promotion:

First, I have observed and participated in Dr. Burton's international leadership in the area of Christian Management Practices. In particular, I had opportunity to co-present with her and a colleague from India at the recent International Conference of the Institute of Management Spirituality and Religion (IAMSIR). What I observed there was Dr. Burton's leadership of a large conference and her engagement of scholars from around the world, including Asia, but also Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. I saw ACU represented in the way that I, as a Dean of ACU, would hope is common and recurring in our faculty's scholarly work around the nation and world. Namely, I saw Dr. Burton's disciplinary insightfulness, combined with an overt, yet inviting confession of faith, but these qualities were also connected to a regular mention of ACU in a positive and affirming way during the conference. In short, she was an ideal faculty ambassador for ACU, with the leadership and reputation in the guild that is appropriate to full faculty status.

Second, I saw in this conference experience a wisdom and faithfulness rooted both in Dr. Burton's business experience in the corporate sector, and her regular devotion to God in her on-campus conversation and charitable practices in her Christian life. This wisdom and faithfulness as a faculty member was most recently evidenced in her participation in a university initiative to develop a new type of online class for the mobile online environment. Part of ACU's recent partnership with Adobe, Dr. Burton volunteered to redesign her Operations Management course as a mobile application designed through Adobe's Digital Publishing Solution (DPS) with deep integration of student use of Adobe's Creative Cloud software for video editing of the course's multiple multimedia assignments.

Dr. Burton's contributions to this initiative were exemplary, and I often commented to colleagues, such as Dr. Marisa Beard, how ideal were Dr. Burton's efforts. She was critical – willing to ask the hard questions – but also collegial in her work with professionals from a wide variety of disciplines, and dedicated in her tireless and excellent work to improve the quality of the course content. The results of her effort were truly extraordinary, and I look forward to showcasing her work in months to come. What I saw in these experience was a faculty member whose knowledge

of her field, its technology, and related opportunities is deeply enriched and expanded by her multiple years of work in the business world. This led to a perspective on our project that was both masterful and mature. Dr. Burton made the difference in the good results of the project, and I think that this "difference-maker" title is a key characteristic for appointment as full faculty at ACU.

I could go on about Dr. Burton's contributions to our programs in the Library and Adams Center related to the integration of faith and learning, and I would be happy to speak a greater length to the committee about this. I admire Dr. Burton very much, and recommend her to you for promotion in COBA.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Weaver", with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. John Weaver