



Wednesday, July 27, 2016

To The ACU Tenure and Promotion Committees:

I am pleased to write a letter of support in Dr. Ryan Jessup's application for tenure and promotion. I can speak particularly to the areas of service, scholarship and collegiality. I have worked with Ryan for the last several years in relationship to undergraduate research. I have been able to witness the way he includes undergraduates in his scholarship and how he works well with others on committees.

Ryan has been an active member of the ACU research community since he joined the faculty. He is a leader in both the Department of Management Sciences and COBA as a whole in including undergraduate students in his research projects. He has received several internal grants to support his research work and the work of his students. His research students have been particularly well trained and successful. Because they love working with Ryan and want to be a more integral part of his research, his research students take classes outside of those required for their degree to expand their skill set. Some of these students are now pursuing graduate degrees, partly because they were inspired by their work with him. His students have been among the finalists for Undergraduate Researcher of the Year and Outstanding Presentation winners at the Research Festival. Some have also have won awards outside of ACU, such as Levi Ritchie who won the presentation award from the Psychology Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research.

For several years, Ryan has been an invaluable member of the University Undergraduate Research Council. Ryan always has good insights and helps us think through the various issues that we deal with. He has been particularly helpful in evaluating grants. He along with others designed a points system to help us award student travel grants. He also designed a way to normalize scores on internal grants to help fairly weight the different evaluators scores. This committee would be the lesser without him.

In addition to the Undergraduate Research Council he has served research on campus in other ways. He has served on the Research Festival Planning Committee. In particular, he has helped with the evaluation of abstracts. He also chairs the COBA research committee. Over the years, he has been a very helpful contact point for the Research Festival through that role.

I love having Ryan on my committees. He is cheerful and hardworking. You know that if something needs to be done, Ryan will do what he says and take care of it. Even more importantly, he is easy and fun to work with.

Ryan Jessup is an asset to Abilene Christian University; we would be a lesser University without him. I fully support his application for tenure and promotion.

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