

July 27, 2020

I am writing to endorse Dr. Ryan Jessup's application for promotion. I met Ryan in August 2011 when he began teaching at ACU. In 2016, when recommending him for promotion and tenure, I described him as a friend and a superb teacher and scholar. I am glad to say that continued work with him in recent years has confirmed this appraisal and increased my respect for him.

Ryan is a dedicated and motivating teacher. I have observed his teaching in several different courses over the years, including an honors colloquium that we co-taught several years ago. I have watched Ryan explain concepts to students in ways that invite participation, not just reception of knowledge. His enthusiasm motivates students to engage with ideas in real ways. Recently we have been working together to design a shared course for a study abroad program planned for summer 2021; in this I have again seen his commitment to excellence and his desire to share with students his own excitement and interest in the material.

Ryan has a deep interest in scholarship, pursuing questions and opportunities and inviting colleagues and students to collaborate with him. I have worked with him in several research projects where our interests overlapped and I have spoken with students who view him as a mentor and model. Ryan's efforts raise the scholarly profile of the university, representing us well in the broad academic community and ensuring that motivated students have opportunity to develop their own skills.

Ryan once remarked to me that every new faculty hire should raise the average quality of faculty in the university, so it seems fair to measure him against this standard. In my assessment, he is not just above average but is an example that we should all seek to emulate. Ryan demonstrates the best characteristics of Abilene Christian University in his embodiment of Christian faith, his dedication to excellent teaching, his investment in meaningful and collaborative scholarship, his service to students and university both within and beyond the classroom, and his commitment to furthering his field. I strongly recommend that his promotion is approved.

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