

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate:

It is an honor to write in support of Amy Rohberg's request for emeritus status at the University of Northern Iowa as the culmination of a 35-year career in the theatre arts.

Amy Rohrberg has an incredible history with UNI. After completing her MFA in theatre from Michigan State University, she began her tenure and teaching career in Fall of 1990. In a performance appraisal letter from 1992, Dr. Jon Hall says "Amy's work has been exemplary. Her commitment to the job is beyond anyone's reasonable expectations." Also quoted in this letter is an unnamed student who said "Amy's great to work for. What can we do to keep her?" Whatever they did worked. She stayed for 35 years. She began her work as an adjunct professor and received an offer as an tenure track assistant professor in summer of 1996 and she was raised to Associate professor with tenure in 2002. In her PAC letter, it was noted that "Professor Rohberg is to be commended for her supervisory production work on these and nearly 50 productions that she has been an integral part of producing since coming to UNI in 1990." In 2019, Chair Eric Lange said in his evaluation that Amy continues "... to make significant contributions that have resulted in improvement for the department and in substantial growth for our students."

Mark Parrott, Associate Professor of Theatre, confirmed the extraordinary level of commitment to students under her teaching. "Much of the success of our students in the professional world has been because of Amy's dedication to their development and training as theatre artists. Amy was my P&S mentor when I started at UNI. Her cheerful support was essential to my success and remained at UNI for 29 years. She has been a great colleague and friend."

Katrina Sandvik, Associate Adjunct Professor, shared this about Amy's tenure: "When Amy RohrBerg came to UNI in 1990, I was a student in the theatre department and worked in the costume studio. From the outset it was clear that Amy was passionate about teaching, theatre and costumes. She brought us new techniques and energy that transformed the costume studio. She taught how to sew, but also about life and how to be good collaborators. In 2014 I was lucky enough to have Amy ask me to join the costume studio team as her colleague. For the last 11 years she was my colleague but she never stopped being my mentor. She helped me to have the confidence to start teaching late in life. I have watched her teach and mentor generations of students for the 35 years in which I have known her. Every student and fellow artist always came away from Amy the better for her wisdom, kindness and cheerful nature. She has instilled knowledge and discernment in hundreds of students in her tenure at UNI."

I have included many other voices in this letter, since my time here has been so short, especially in comparison to Amy's career. I will not see as many years, shows, or students as Amy did here. Not many will. Amy has had a large and meaningful impact on this theatre community, UNI, and all the people who have met her. She leads with grace, kindness, and laughter in all that she does.

Sincerely,

William Hickman

William Hickman
Head of TheatreUNI