

11/26/2024

Kenneth Elgersma, Chair UNI Faculty Senate

Dear Professor Elgersma,

It is my honor and privilege to write in support of Chris Neuhaus' Emeritus request. Chris holds a BS in Geology from the University of Michigan, MS in Geological Sciences from the University of South Carolina, and an MLIS from the University of South Carolina.

For the past 30 years Chris has been a vital part of the Rod Library faculty having held a variety of positions throughout that time including as a Reference Librarian and Bibliographer, Library Instruction Coordinator, the Head of the Learning and Outreach Unit, Learning Commons Coordinator, and Liaison Librarian. Throughout this time, Chris has been known as a collaborative and caring librarian who always prioritizes the interests of students and faculty. Recently, a graduate student sent the following unsolicited feedback to Chris, exemplifying these qualities: "I want to acknowledge the encouragement and motivation you provided during this project's highs and lows. Your unwavering belief in my abilities has inspired me to overcome obstacles and reach new heights." Given Chris's extensive work with nearly every department on campus, this sentiment is undoubtedly shared by many students and faculty, and his retirement will leave a significant void in the library.

Chris' passion for librarianship elevates everyone around him. His ability to connect with students is something to which others aspire. He has demonstrated great skill in thousands of research consultations with students, staff, faculty, and community members, as well as in more than one thousand instruction sessions he has taught. As the world of information has continued to change, Chris has adapted alongside it. He designed the library's first website, created and taught the popular 1-credit Beyond Google course, and led the development and teaching of the library's course on Artificial Intelligence.

I am grateful to have gotten to work alongside Chris; his ethos reminds us how each one of us can make a difference in the lives of others. I wholeheartedly endorse his request for Emeritus status and wish him the best in retirement.

Sincerely,

Ene Jennings

Eric Jennings Associate University Librarian for Learning & Research