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March 18, 2025

Kenneth Elgersma, Chair  
UNI Faculty Senate

Dear Professor Elgersma,

It is my honor and privilege to write in support of Dr. Jonathan Schwabe's Emeritus request.

Dr. Schwabe holds a Bachelor of Musical Arts (jazz studies) from the University of Tennessee (1986); a Master of Musical Arts (music composition) from Eastern Illinois University (1988); and a Doctor of Musical Arts (music composition) from the University of South Carolina (1992).

Dr. Schwabe has been a valued faculty member of the UNI School of Music since 1992. Over the span of his 33-year career, he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in composition, orchestration, analysis, music theory, and applied double bass, in addition to directing a large jazz ensemble and coaching jazz combos. He continues to be active as a composer, creating new works for large ensembles (both jazz and classical) and smaller chamber groups. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the David Diamond Award in Composition (2003), and was winner of the Iowa Composers' Forum Francis Pyle Commission in 1998. He has appeared as string bassist, arranger, and conductor on a dozen compact disc recordings. His song "Anonymous," co-written with Tony Arata, is included in the 1999 compact disc *Garth Brooks: Boxed Set*.

All of this is to say that in his teaching and creative work, Dr. Schwabe has embraced a diverse array of musical styles, performance venues, and collaborations (he is also a fine singer of blue-grass harmonies!). I have appreciated his willingness and ability to truly enjoy making music in all its forms.

As a teacher, composer, performer, and colleague, Dr. Schwabe will be difficult to replace. I heartily endorse his request for Emeritus status and wish him well on the next phase of his journey.

Sincerely,



Melinda Boyd, Ph.D.  
Director and Professor of Music History