
21 February 2025

Dear UNI Faculty Senate members,

It is my great pleasure to write a letter in support for Mary McDade's application for Faculty Emeritus status. Mary earned a BS in Biology from the University of West Florida, a BSN from Florida State University and a MS in Botany from Oregon State University. She worked as a high school science teacher and a registered nurse prior to coming to UNI. Mary was hired in 1990 and has served the Department of Biology for 35 years.

Over the course of Mary's career at UNI, she has designed and developed an outstanding series of courses that include Non-major's Biology and Anatomy and Physiology I and II lecture and labs for majors and pre-health students. It is safe to say that Mary is highly regarded by all her students. They praise her teaching style, commitment to excellence, and caring nature. Mary has very high expectations; she is rigorous and demands a lot from her students, yet she is compassionate and devoted to their learning. Students know this and Mary has won countless awards and recognitions for her teaching. It not uncommon for alumni to return to campus looking for Mary to thank her for all she did for them.

Mary's impact on the Department of Biology and University goes beyond her skill in teaching. Over the years she was instrumental in securing over \$850,000 from the Carver Foundation to support and improve the A&P labs. A large portion of these grants was directed towards the development our SynDaver lab. Mary was central to this endeavor and she has become an expert on the models. As with everything she does, Mary took on the task of developing the labs with great energy and enthusiasm. She is now a lead consultant for the SynDaver Corporation and has written the only lab manual available for undergraduate courses. UNI is one of the first universities in the nation to use the models which provide undergraduate students a unique and hands-on learning of the anatomy of the human body. The SynDaver lab has gain interest throughout the state and we frequently get student groups requesting to see them.

I often describe Mary as legendary and it is hard to summarize the influence she has had on the University and local community. She is more than deserving of this recognition and she will be missed. I wholeheartedly recommend that she be awarded emeritus status.

Sincerely,



Peter Berendzen
Professor of Biology and Department Head