
January 30, 2026

Dr. Kenneth Elgersma
Faculty Chair
University of Northern Iowa

Re: Statement of support for Dr. Suzanne Riehl's request for faculty emeritus status

Dear Dr. Elgersma,

On behalf of the Department of Mathematics, I am submitting this letter in support of Dr. Suzanne Riehl's request for faculty emeritus status. Dr. Riehl will retire on June 1, 2026, ending 25 years of service as a tenure/tenure track faculty member in the Department of Mathematics at UNI.

Dr. Riehl joined the faculty in the Department of Mathematics as an assistant professor in 2001. She received tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2007, and was promoted to full professor in 2018. In her time at UNI, Dr. Riehl has made significant contributions to the department and to the university, which I now describe.

In the area of teaching, Dr. Riehl has touched the lives of thousands of UNI students who took her courses. She is a pure mathematician specializing in Ordinary Differential Equations and whose research interests have expanded to include mathematics education in the last 15 years. The expanded breadth of expertise made her one of the rare faculty members in the department who is just as comfortable teaching mathematics courses as she is teaching mathematics education courses. For a department like ours, which offers a large number of mathematics education courses, having a faculty member with broad ranging expertise like Dr. Riehl has given us a level of flexibility in scheduling that we would otherwise not have. I also note that unlike many other faculty in our department, Dr. Riehl preferred to teach lower level courses, such as Calculus I, Trigonometry, Mathematics Reasoning I, which are invariably harder to teach and have larger class sizes. Her large classes meant that she taught more students per semester than the typical faculty member and in the process made proportionately larger contributions to teaching in the department.

As significant as her contributions in teaching have been, it is really in the area of service where Dr. Riehl has excelled and shone. She was what seemed to be permanent fixture on the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) from Fall 2013 to Fall 2025. Any faculty member who proposed curriculum changes in that period will know just how meticulous she was and how much she paid attention to details. The Associate Provosts for Academic Affairs during that period will vouch for the excellence Dr. Riehl brought to her work on the UCC. At the department level, she used the expertise she developed as a member of the UCC to make significant contributions to curriculum revision discussions, preparation of Academic Program Review self-study reports, and faculty discussions on student advising. Dr. Riehl was also a permanent fixture on the department scheduling committee where she served with distinction as co-chair from Fall 2001 to Fall 2025.

In the area of research, Dr. Riehl published 13 articles in some of the most prestigious mathematics and mathematics education journals, including *Operator Theory: Advances and Applications*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, and *Investigations in Mathematics Learning*. Additionally, she has gave 15 research presentations at regional and national conferences. She has set a very high bar for all of us.

I wish Dr. Riehl the best as she embarks on the next chapter of her life in retirement. I strongly support her request for faculty emeritus status.

Sincerely



Dougla Mupasiri
Head and Professor