

1 April 2022

Professor John Burnight, Chair
Distinguished Faculty Members
University Faculty Senate
University of Northern Iowa

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Professor Anne Woodrick's application for Emeritus Faculty status at the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Woodrick first arrived at UNI in 1988 and it has been my pleasure to serve on the UNI Anthropology faculty with Professor Woodrick for 32 years.

At the core of Dr. Woodrick's legacy at UNI will be her reputation as an outstanding teacher. Among my many colleagues over the years, Anne has consistently demonstrated a great passion for teaching. Demanding but fair, she was employing critical thinking strategies in all of her classes years before the approach became a widespread expectation for teaching at UNI. Anne's love for Anthropological methods, concepts and literature were always evident in her teaching. She has taught numerous courses over the years but in my recollection, she was always the go-to faculty member in our department to teach *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* and *Native Central and South America*, both of which she has also offered with Honors sections. Her advanced courses have always been in great demand. Among these, I point to *Qualitative Research*, *Tribal Religions* and *Religion, Magic and Witchcraft*. As she retires, the *Witchcraft* course in particular will be greatly missed in the SAC curriculum but in other programs ranging from Women's and Gender Studies to Philosophy and World Religions. It will leave a hole in our curriculum that may never be filled.

Dr. Woodrick also did important research during her years at UNI. Her expertise is in religiosity. She began her career researching religiosity among rural women in Yucatan, Mexico. More recently, she combined her extensive research experience in Mexico, her fluency in Spanish and her ethnographic research skills to conduct research among Iowa's burgeoning Latino population. The result was numerous and pioneering publications appearing in such highly regarded journals as *Human Organization*, *Urban Anthropology*, *Anthropological Quarterly* and *Ethos*.

In addition to Dr. Woodrick's outstanding record as a teacher and scholar, I must also remind you of her legacy of service to UNI. For recent examples, she served on the 2012-2013 UNI President Search Committee, as a member of the CSBS Strategic Planning Committee and on the 2017 Faculty Summer Fellowship Committee. But in particular, I want to highlight Anne's many years of service to UNI

athletics. Anne served at the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative from 2002-2011, one of the most demanding and time-consuming service jobs on campus. She also served on the Missouri Valley Conference President's Council and she was a member of the search committee that hired women's basketball head coach Tanya Warren. When she was recently inducted into the 2021 UNI Athletics Hall of Fame, it was duly noted that Anne "impacted the lives of countless student-athletes through her advocacy and leadership."

My colleagues in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology and I enthusiastically endorse Dr. Woodrick's application for Emeritus status. She will be missed but, of course, we wish her the very best for her retirement and future plans.

Respectfully,



Mark A. Grey, Ph.D.
Professor and Head,
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology