

August 26, 2019

Dear Chair Mattingly and Senators,

It is my sincere pleasure to write this letter of support for Dr. Jeffery Elbert's application for emeritus status. Dr. Elbert had a 25 year career in higher education with 18 of those years here at the University of Northern Iowa. His first appointment was at South Dakota State University where he earned academic tenure. As a native of the Cedar Valley, he chose to leave his tenured position and come to the University of Northern Iowa starting in August 2001 to be closer to family. Dr. Elbert earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at UNI in 2007.

In his career at UNI, Dr. Elbert worked with 23 undergraduate students and 2 graduate students. He and his students were co-authors of 3 publications and 37 presentations at regional and national meetings. Much of his research here at UNI centered on the study of naphthalimide compounds, which led to a contact partnership with Alumend, an applied research division of Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center in Sioux Falls, SD. These compounds are being explored for use in localized drug delivery systems. Avera supplied research funds for the Elbert group for the past 8 years. This contracted research has led to 3 patents with Avera.

Dr. Elbert's regular teaching assignments were in our Organic Chemistry sequence. The organic sequence can be very challenging for many students. Dr. Elbert piloted peer-led Supplemental Instruction for his sections and would continually try to find other supplementary materials for his students. His teaching evaluations reflected the care he took in preparing his class. Dr. Elbert designed and taught our Chemical Safety course, an area that the American Chemical Society has been focusing awareness of for the past few years. Our department is one of the first departments in the nation to require a course on chemical safety. Dr. Elbert is a Certified Chemical Hygiene Officer and has also completed the 40-hr HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) certification. Dr. Elbert served on the University Safety Committee, the University Laboratory Safety Committee and has been instrumental in creating and supporting a safety culture here at UNI.

Dr. Elbert was a long standing member of United Faculty. He has served as the Treasurer for UF and a member of the negotiating team. The past few years he has served on the Faculty Senate Budget Committee and the University Budget Advisory Committee to the President.

Dr. Elbert has been an excellent teacher, scholar, mentor and citizen to UNI and is well deserving of emeritus status.

Sincerely yours,



Laura H. Strauss
Department Head of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Professor of Chemistry