

August 10, 2022

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate:

I am writing in support of Chris Lukasiewicz's application for emeritus status following his retirement from UNI at the end of the Spring 2022 semester. Following a brief stint at the U.S. Naval Academy, Chris began his career at UNI in 2005 as the Head of the Military Science Department (ROTC). After his service to ROTC, Chris served as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Economics for 17 years.

During his time at UNI, Chris taught economics courses that are quite challenging for newly minted college students. Quantitative analysis is rarely a popular subject matter for first- and second-year students. Chris, however, willingly taught the two required quantitative courses that all business students take in their first two years --- Decision Analytics (aka, Dec Tech) and Business Statistics (aka, Biz Stat). Each semester, he led four sections of business students through challenging material. He was also willing to teach these courses in a variety of settings including large and small sections, evening classes, and summer classes.

Chris was not only a valued colleague within the department and college, he also had an exemplary reputation with students. He made himself available to help students during or outside his scheduled office hours. Lines outside his door were a common sight, reflecting his strong connection with his students. Despite teaching two difficult courses required of all of the business majors, his student assessments ranked among the highest in the College of Business. Chris also garnered a reputation for being willing to have the "difficult conversations" with students that were not committing themselves to their coursework. He was firm but fair in his expectations. It was clear that he always had students' best interests at heart.

In addition to his high marks in the classroom, Chris served as the coordinator of the College of Business' scholarship program for the majority of his years in the department. He worked with the UNI Foundation, Financial Aid, and each of the five departments in the College of Business to award all Foundation-supported student scholarships. This is not an idle service obligation. One previous head of the Economics department described his leadership in this role as the best he had seen relative to others that held this post.

While teaching, Chris remained active in his profession as a consultant for entities on campus. During his last several years, Chris advised the UNI Racquetball Club and the UNI Gamers Club, supporting his reputation as a favorite of students. A 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army, Chris remains active with veteran groups in Iowa.

Since I have held this position for only a very short time, I sought feedback from those that have known, interacted with, and taught with Chris at UNI. His colleagues describe him as a great teacher, always ready to help when needed, easy to work with, very friendly, and a wonderful colleague. From my own perspective, whenever you met him in the hallway, Chris always had a bright smile on his face. During any breaks, he was off to a river or stream somewhere in the U.S.

to fly fish. I enjoyed hearing his stories of these trips. As the Head of the Economics Department, and on behalf of his colleagues in the department and the college, I strongly recommend Chris Lukasiewicz for emeritus status.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett C. Olsen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brett C. Olsen, Ph.D.
Finance Dept Head; Economics Dept Head
Associate Professor of Finance