

Dear Dr. Petersen,

I enthusiastically support Dr. Tim Strauss' request to become Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geography. I have known Dr. Strauss for 13 years, both as a departmental colleague and, most recently, as a departmental colleague who became Interim Department Head to serve UNI Geography during a time of leadership transition. Tim has served in the Iowa Board of Regents system for more than twenty years, first as a Research Associate for the Center for Transportation Research and Education at Iowa State University and then at UNI since 1999 as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Interim Department Head. Dr. Strauss has had a profound, positive impact on UNI during his tenure here, and I would like to focus on his impressive contributions to UNI students through his commitment to teaching and mentoring.

From 1999 to 2012 Dr. Strauss was the Director of UNI's Transportation Scholars Program of the Midwest Transportation Consortium (MTC). Through this role, Tim provided a robust learning environment for students, including the longest running videoconference course at UNI, one that regularly brought transportation scholars from across the Midwest to speak to our students. Dr. Strauss' MTC funding provided scholarships and funding for twenty-five students from five different UNI departments. Tim always placed a high value on mentoring and he chaired eleven graduate student thesis/dissertation committees and served as a committee member on fourteen others. He always took on additional mentoring responsibilities including instructing over fifty independent studies courses.

Please consider Dr. Strauss' emeritus request. He is somebody who has, in addition to his research and service, profoundly impacted so many UNI students. During Tim's last week at UNI prior to the holiday break, he was helping me access data and resources that I would need as Interim Department Head. As he was working with me, a student came into the office and shared that Dr. Strauss' class was his favorite course at UNI and that he had appreciated all that Dr. Strauss had done to inspire and support him in his academic career.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alex Oberle  
Associate Professor and Interim Department Head  
Department of Geography  
University of Northern Iowa