

Dr. James Mattingly  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614

January 27, 2020

Dear Chair Mattingly:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Department of History Professor Robert Martin's application for emeritus status. As a member of the department for 30 years, 15 as Department Head, Professor Martin has made sustained and substantive contributions to the Department of History and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa. His record of scholarship, teaching, and service create a powerful personal and professional legacy of achievement and has enriched the University of Northern Iowa community.

Professor Martin has had an extensive record of achievement as a teacher during his tenure at UNI. He is a professor of the history of the United States and has contributed a number of courses to the History Department's curricular offerings in US History. In addition to introductory courses in American Civilization/History of the United States and US History to and since 1877, Professor Martin has cultivated students' interest in the history of the US through specialized chronological and thematic course: Foundations of Modern America, Society and Culture in the United States, and The South in United States History. He has also developed seminars on "U.S. Biography, Memoir, and Fiction" and "Great American Disasters." These are topics that captivate student attention and offer opportunities to train History majors to think and write historically about subjects they find meaningful and relevant.

Professor Martin has also amassed a significant record in terms of scholarship. He authored two prize-winning books: *Hero of the Heartland: Billy Sunday and the Transformation of American Society, 1862-1935* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002), winner of the Benjamin F Shambaugh Award from the State Historical Society of Iowa, 2003, and *Howard Kester and the Struggle for Social Justice in the South: 1904-77* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1991), winner of the Gustavus Myers Center Award for an Outstanding Book on Human Rights in the United States, 1992. Since 2006, he has also authored four book reviews, two book chapters, and multiple encyclopedia entries as well as served as a manuscript reviewer; these scholarly contributions all post-dated his appointment as Department Head and demonstrate his commitment to an active scholarly agenda, even while performing the highest level of departmental leadership and service.

In addition to Professor Martin's accomplishments in teaching and scholarship, he has compiled an outstanding service and administrative record during his decades at UNI. As anyone who has ever taken on the responsibility of serving as leader of an academic department can attest, the workload is sizable and constant. As Head, Professor Martin was responsible for supervising, evaluating, and supporting personnel and staff, writing and compiling various annual reports and supervising History's Academic Program Review processes on two occasions, serving as a member of the College Heads' Council and the Council of Academic Department Heads, recruiting, assisting, and advising undergraduate and graduate students, monitoring department budgets and scholarship accounts, and interacting with alumni and donors. He admirably performed these tasks and many more during three consecutive five-year terms as Head. Professor Martin also served on numerous university, college, and department committees in his capacity as Department Head. A comprehensive list of these tasks would run to many pages, but among the more notable contributions are his supervision as coordinator of the Social Science Master's Program for more than 10 years, his service as Chair of the TESI Focus Group, "Building a Campus Community that Values Educator Preparation," and his service on three CSBS Heads' review committees and two CSBS Heads' search committees. Throughout his time as Head, Professor Martin exhibited great care and concern for History's programs, faculty and staff, and students and was an excellent member of the College and University leadership groups.

Based on his record of meaningful accomplishments at UNI as a scholar, teacher, and citizen-steward of the Department of History, College of Social and Behavior Sciences, and University of Northern Iowa, I enthusiastically support Professor Robert Martin's application for emeritus status. This recognition would serve as a fitting celebration of a long career dedicated to UNI, his discipline and his colleagues in History, and his many students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer McNabb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer McNabb, Ph.D.  
Professor and Head, Department of History