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August 25, 2023

Dr. Melissa Dobosh, Chair  
University Faculty Senate  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, IA 50614  
SENT BY EMAIL

Dear Dr. Dobosh:

It is my pleasure to support Dr. Jeffrey Funderburk's application for emeritus status at the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Funderburk served UNI admirably in his 36 years here as an excellent teacher, an accomplished performer, a mentor to countless students, a faculty leader, and an administrator.

A Professor of Music focusing on tuba and euphonium performance, his list of on-campus, regional, national, and international performances is too long to detail here. In addition to teaching tuba and euphonium students, he led the Brass Ensemble and taught a number of courses, including the Liberal Arts Core course Soundscapes. Over the years, we have shared several students in common and I heard rave reviews of how he mentored and guided students through their development as musicians and their growth as individuals. He was active in his discipline, serving as a term as president of TUBA, an international professional association, and on the advisory board to the International Tuba and Euphonium Association.

Dr. Funderburk served the School of Music as chair of its Scholarship Committee from 1989-1998, overseeing the awarding of over 100 scholarships annually while managing scholarship funds valued over \$1 million. He also served in several key faculty leadership positions, including three terms as the Vice President of United Faculty, where he chaired the Grievance Committee and served on the team that negotiated the Master Agreement. He chaired the University Faculty Senate during a particularly difficult time, when the administration sought to close over 50 academic programs and terminate faculty, and then served as Chair of the Faculty as we worked our way through the aftermath of that breach of shared governance and rebuilt norms and processes to protect faculty governance and strengthen the university. Along the way, he was tapped on multiple occasions for key university committees (e.g., VP and presidential searches, chairing performance review committees of upper administrators).

After three years as Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences (which included several months as acting head of the Department of Art), Dr. Funderburk began serving as Director of the School of Music in June, 2017. As a department head myself, I marvel at the skills needed to oversee a school that not only has a large faculty and hundreds of majors, but schedules multiple venues that host public performances nearly every night of the year, includes public outreach and service through entities such as the Suzuki School, maintains millions of dollars' worth of equipment, hosts multiple student recruiting events annually....and these are just the duties I'm aware of.

Dr. Melissa Dobosh

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On a personal note, Jeff has been a trusted colleague, mentor, and friend. I first got to know him when I began serving on the University Faculty Senate in Fall 2011, which he chaired. I had no idea what was to come in the 2011-12 academic year for UNI or for the Senate. When he began asking me to take on tasks and serve as Senate Secretary, I did not even realize that he was mentoring me, much less that he was grooming me to run for chair next term. We worked with other faculty leaders to represent faculty interests during an extremely challenging time, when trust and nearly all relationships between faculty and administration had completely broken down because of a violation of key norms of shared governance. I learned much from Jeff during that time and relied upon his counsel frequently when I took on subsequent faculty leadership positions. I continued to rely on him as a sounding board when I moved into my current role as department head. As much as I wish him well in his retirement, I will greatly miss his presence on campus.

I have no doubt that Dr. Funderburk mentored many other faculty members on campus in similar ways. He leaves UNI having served the School of Music ably for decades, and having worked tirelessly on behalf of UNI faculty and students. I am honored to recommend him for emeritus status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Scott Peters". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

C. Scott Peters

Professor and Department Head