
November 11, 2023

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

Dear Dr. Dobosh & University Faculty Senate members,

I am proud to support **Dr. Lisa Jepsen's** application for **emeritus status** at the University of Northern Iowa. Dr. Jepsen devotedly served UNI for over 23 years. The epitome of a teacher-scholar, Lisa excelled in the classroom, published in high-ranking journals, mentored numerous students and colleagues, and provided above-and-beyond service. Her sustained record of excellence across all aspects of academia were most recently recognized through the 2023 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence.

In the classroom, Lisa was engaging, organized, and effective. But what made her a truly special teacher was the generosity of her time with students. Economics is a subject that many students find challenging. Students praised Lisa for her ability to make challenging topics relatable and for her willingness to be available outside of class to support their learning. Remarkably, Lisa did this across multiple modalities (in-person, online, hybrid) and for a wide variety of classes -- from first-year principles courses, to our department's capstone research course, to MBA and MPP courses. Her efforts were recognized through numerous teaching awards, including the Class of 1943 Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Colleagues frequently sought Lisa's advice regarding curriculum, instruction, and classroom management; again, she was always willing to give freely of her time. In Fall 2021, Lisa formalized her leadership in this area through her role as an Administrative Fellow role with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Her selection into this position highlights the positive teaching culture that Lisa created and the respect that she earned from her colleagues.

Dr. Jepsen's broad area of research is as a labor economist. She published several articles in high-ranking peer-reviewed journals, including *Labour Economics*, *Industrial Relations*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, and *Demography*, and contributed three book chapters. Lisa also earned a reputation as a top scholar in the economics of gay and lesbian couples. Her expertise on the topic led her to co-edit a special edition of the *Review of Economics of the Household*. She also conducted a proposal review and did a referee report for the *Journal of Economic Literature*, arguably one of the top three journals in economics.

In service, Lisa has also gone above and beyond the call of duty. Her service contributions are too long to detail here, so I will highlight some standouts. One of Lisa's greatest contributions was her mentorship of students. Lisa advised all business students interested in law school and was the advisor

for the Pre-Law Club. During her time at UNI, she mentored over 60 students applying to law school. Two of these students went on to graduate from Harvard and one from the University of Chicago.

Lisa was also an integral part of our Undergraduate Research Program (URP). URP provides students the opportunity to conduct research under faculty supervision and present the research at an academic conference. Lisa supervised numerous URP and honors theses, some of which resulted in co-authored peer-reviewed journal publications with students. For her advising efforts, Lisa has received both regional and national advising awards including the MidWestOne UNIQUE Advising Award (2012-2013) and the prestigious National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Outstanding Advising Award, Faculty Academic Advising Category (2014).

Beyond advising, Lisa provided a wide variety of service to the university including the UNIFI committee, University Strategic Planning Committees, Salary Equity Committee, and Faculty Handbook Committee. She also served in several leadership roles, most notably, as the Associate Dean for the College of Business Administration from 2015-2020. Further, she served as the university's NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative (2011-2015), economics PAC chair, and economics assessment chair. When the finance department did not have a tenured faculty member to serve as PAC chair, Lisa even willingly accepted the role for their department as well.

On a personal note, I have known Lisa for almost twenty years and have the unique perspective of knowing her as a professor, colleague, and administrator. Lisa was my professor and advisor as an undergraduate economics major at UNI from 2002 to 2006. Since fall 2011, I have been fortunate to have her as a colleague. I am only one of many former students and colleagues that benefited from her guidance, generosity, and friendship. I am honored to recommend her for emeritus status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Rosburg".

Alicia Rosburg

Professor of Economics
Interim Department Head