
November 1, 2022

It is my honor and privilege to offer my strongest support for Professor Shashi Kaparthy's request for Faculty Emeritus Status. Professor Kaparthy received his Ph.D. in Management Systems from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. He joined UNI in the Fall of 1992. He is tenured in the Department of Management as an Associate Professor of Management Information Systems. His effective departure date from the University of Northern Iowa is December 31, 2022.

Over his three decades of service to the University of Iowa, Professor Kaparthy has made numerous significant contributions through all facets of his work roles: teaching, scholarship, and service. During the past 30 years, over 5,000 students have benefited from his teaching. However, what is truly remarkable about Professor Kaparthy is his unequaled expertise in wide-ranging fields. Unsurprisingly, Professor Kaparthy has often been asked to teach various courses in Management Information Systems, Supply Chain and Operations Management, and Business Analytics at both undergraduate and graduate levels. He has always accepted teaching assignments and multiple preps with his infectious smile. I suspect he knows that his students want him to teach a variety of courses so that they can benefit from his expertise. Of course, this has also helped the Management Department. MIS is a rapidly evolving field. And Professor Kaparthy loves technological advances. A short conversation with him would quickly inform anyone that his knowledge about complex topics, such as neural networks or Artificial Intelligence, is unmatched. It allows him to incorporate new ideas in his teaching quickly. No wonder he received the "Innovative Teacher Award" from the College of Business in 1998.

Professor Kaparthy is equally adept at publishing traditional peer-reviewed research as well as applied work that is useful for managers or students. As I have mentioned, he specializes in wide-ranging technical fields such as decision support systems, internet technologies, bibliometric analyses, neural network models, and applications of AI in management research. Since joining the UNI in 1992, he has published a book, "Macromedia ColdFusion," and over 20 peer-reviewed publications in journals such as Decision Sciences, Journal of Decision Systems, International Journal of Production Research, and European Journal of Operational Research, to name a few. He received the "Faculty Scholarship Award" from the College of Business in 2006.

Professor Kaparthy served as the inaugural CIO of the University under President Allen from October 2010 to December 2014. As the CIO, he provided the vision for IT at the University and

was responsible for aligning IT infrastructure and capabilities with the University's mission and strategic goals. As CIO, he reported to the executive vice president & provost and was a member of the president's executive management team. In addition to his role as the CIO, Professor Kaparathi has served on various committees. One example can sum up his approach to service work. This past year, the Management Department went through many important curriculum changes. I had asked Professor Kaparathi to serve as the Department's Curriculum Chair. Thus, I worked closely with him in preparing our curriculum proposals. I was very impressed with his ability to prepare proposals carefully and develop a digitized method to improve the efficiency of the curriculum proposal approval process. I must also mention that for his service contributions to the University, the College, and the Department, he received the College of Business "Faculty Service Award" in 2004.

To conclude, let me reiterate my strongest support for Professor Kaparathi's request for Faculty Emeritus Status. I know that Professor Kaparathi values the opportunity the University and the State of Iowa afforded him to engage in the noble pursuit of helping students and contributing to the academy. Please feel free to contact me (319-273-2237, atul.mitra@uni.edu) if you need any additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Atul Mitra

Atul Mitra
Head and Professor of Management
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company Professor
Department of Management
College of Business
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Phone: 319-273-2237
Email: atul.mitra@uni.edu