

---

July 25, 2024

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

Dear Melissa,

I am very pleased to recommend Dr. Timothy Kidd for Emeritus status at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). I have watched with admiration since Tim's arrival in 2005 as he rose from the rank of assistant professor to the rank of professor and became a leader in the department and the university. Measures of Dr. Kidd's research productivity since coming to UNI are impressive: Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI of external grants totaling over \$6 million; over 60 undergraduate students supervised in research projects and over 600 citations of his articles since 2019. His work with students is especially noteworthy. Tim's ability to successfully supervise multiple students pursuing very different projects in experimental physics over the course of a single summer never ceases to amaze me. It is a testament to his intellectual depth and breadth in being able to conceive of distinct and substantive research questions for so many students. The great benefit of this is providing students with the technical skills and intellectually rewarding experiences needed to contribute significantly to science and technology in their careers after graduation.

Tim has been not just a leader but *the* leader in cultivating and maintaining an atmosphere of collaborative research in the UNI Physics Department. He introduced transition-metal dichalcogenide materials as a promising area of research to the department. He has been so successful in this endeavor that all faculty members in the department who conduct condensed-matter physics research, one faculty member in the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department, and researchers at other institutions have all engaged in dichalcogenide research in collaboration with Tim. Over the past 20 years, dichalcogenides and other materials with layered crystal structures have become the subject of intense international research. The significant contributions by UNI in this globally important field is entirely due to Tim's farsightedness, unbounded curiosity, and relentless pursuit of opportunities to collaborate.

Tim has also worked extensively on developing applications for nanocellulose, which is cellulose broken down into nanoparticles. Composites of nanoparticles possess excellent mechanical properties, which can be harnessed for various structural applications. Tim's work on nanocellulose was recently funded by a \$20 million NSF grant in collaboration with Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, Central College, and Dordt University.

Tim has also served UNI in various faculty leadership roles, including Chair of the Faculty Senate and Chair of the Faculty. Tim has also served as Treasurer of United Faculty. During his tenure in faculty leadership, he fought tenaciously for salary equity and administrative transparency.

Tim leaves a legacy of excellence in research, teaching, and service at the University of Northern Iowa. It is my honor to make this petition to grant him Emeritus status.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Shand, Ph.D.  
Professor and Head  
Department of Physics