

Dr. John Burnight
Chair, Faculty Senate
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614

October 9, 2020

Dear Faculty Senate Chair Burnight:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Department of History Professor Donna (Dolly) Maier's application for emeritus status. As a valued member of the department since her appointment in 1978, Professor Maier 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. Her record of scholarship, teaching, and service at UNI, combined with her human rights advocacy work and international profile in bringing awareness to past and present genocides, serve as a legacy of achievement, and her work has enriched the University of Northern Iowa campus community and far beyond.

Professor Maier has had an extensive record of achievement as an instructor at UNI. Her geographic area of specialization is Africa, and she has contributed a number of courses to the History Department's curricular offerings in her field, bringing her vital area of expertise to UNI students, both within and outside the department. In addition to an LAC introductory courses in African Cultures, Professor Maier has cultivated students' interest in the history of African through specialized chronological and thematic courses: Pre-Modern African History, Modern African History, and seminars (undergraduate and graduate) in Global Slavery, Genocide Denial, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and Apartheid and Mandela. These are courses feature important topics that captivate student attention and offer opportunities to train History majors at the undergraduate and graduate levels to think and write historically about subjects they find meaningful and relevant. Further, she has read and/or directed a dozen MA theses and contributed coursework to the Social Science MA program.

Professor Maier has also amassed an impressive professional record as a scholar. She published *Priests and Power: The Case of the Dente Shrine in Nineteenth Century Ghana* with Indiana University Press in 1983 as well as several resource texts with co-authors and editors, including *The Ancient World*, *Source Readings for History and Life*, and *The World and Its Peoples* (published in four editions between 1977 and 1990). These texts are joined by dozens of book chapters, entries, and scholarly articles in prestigious journals including *Journal of African History* and *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. I will also draw attention to the government report she authored for the Simanjiro Medical Office, Tanzania titled, "Massai Health and Nutrition in Pregnant Women, Infants, and Children," in

2005, and her work as an Associate Research Officer for the Office of the Prosecution for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda Genocide in Tanzania from 2007 to 2010. In a demonstration of her position as a recognized authority in her field and in service to the profession of history, she has also authored more than 30 book reviews in *American Historical Review*, *African Studies Review*, *Journal of African History*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *History*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *History Review of New Books*, and other scholarly journals. She has also served as a manuscript reader for several journals and publishers and on the editorial board of *African Economic History*. Professor Maier presents her work regularly to local, regional, and national audiences, and her professional network is international, with review and conference activities extending to Switzerland, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Botswana.

In addition to Professor Maier's accomplishments in teaching and scholarship, she has provided meaningful service to the department, to the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and to the University. Professor Maier has been a Faculty Senator and a member of multiple CSBS committees reviewing applications for grants and scholarships. She has also served on numerous committees at the department level, including seven search committees. Her greatest contribution to the academic life and legacy of the department, however, may be her years as Graduate Studies Coordinator. The role involves a range of time- and labor-intensive activities, from recruitment and program assessment to the supervision of graduate assistants, curricular management, and graduate program design. Professor Maier is an active, thoughtful steward of History's graduate program, and I have been particularly impressed by her dedication to helping students persist in completion to degree, including several who returned to the program, as a result of her encouragement, after prolonged absences. Her guidance of and contributions to the graduate program will be missed.

Professor Dolly Maier has an admirable record of meaningful accomplishments at UNI as a teacher-scholar of the Department of History, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and University of Northern Iowa. I have valued her wit, collegiality, and dedication to the department, and it has been a great pleasure to work with her. I enthusiastically support her application for emeritus status. This recognition will serve as a fitting celebration of Professor Maier's distinguished career and her commitment to her discipline, her colleagues in History, and her students.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer McNabb, Ph.D.

Professor and Head, Department of History