

August 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to nominate **Dr. Joyce Milambiling**, from the Department of Languages and Literatures, for Emeritus Faculty Status. Dr. Milambiling received a Bachelors degree in Liberal Studies from Boston University, an M.A. degree in Scandinavian Languages from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the City University of New York Graduate Center. Before joining the UNI Faculty in 1997, she served as an Associate Examiner for the Educational Testing Service in New Jersey, as a teacher, and as a language teacher educator in the United States, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Since 2004, Dr. Milambiling has served as the graduate coordinator for the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program, collaborating with her colleagues to develop both outreach and on-campus versions of this program as well as a unique TESOL/Spanish program. Under her leadership, these programs have nurtured the careers of hundreds of language teachers from Iowa, the United States, and countries across the world. Dr. Milambiling's leadership style fosters the whole student and draws on her international reputation as a language teacher and pedagogical theorist.

Dr. Milambiling's research interests are in English language learning in multiple contexts—as a foreign language, as a second language, among adult learners, among children, in mainstream classrooms, in intensive English classrooms, and in many different countries. She has published two book chapters and fifteen articles in journals such as *TESOL Quarterly*, *Theory into Practice*, *The English Teaching Forum*, and *Academe*. Such a broad approach beautifully situates her to address issues for international and domestic students in the TESOL programs as well as those who plan to teach in the United States or abroad. Her expertise has been recognized at the highest levels; she has served as an English Language Teaching Specialist for the U.S. Department of State and has received two Fulbright Awards, one for research and teaching in Indonesia (2004) and one for research and teaching in the Philippines (1994-5).

Her approach to teaching is to be what she terms a “warm demander;” she establishes trust as well as high expectations from students. The word “approachable” is the one that appears most frequently in her student assessments and is given additional force by comments such as these: “She has the best stories and always keeps the learning interesting (Language Development, fall 2010). She is “hard-working” (Research Paper Writing, spring 2015) and “extremely engaging and helpful” (Bilingual Ed in Public Schools, spring 2012). She has personally developed online versions of many of the courses we offer for the MA TESOL program and students in these classes especially appreciate her thoughtful and well-research approach to this platform. This student, for example, comments, “I never thought I

would be able to cope with this new technology as I have never used it in my country. But the instructor's support made everything easy in a professional manner. This class was the best throughout my program"(Second Language Acquisition," spring 2010). My own observation of her teaching reaffirms her caring, well-prepared, stimulating approach to teaching. It is clear that she lives up to her teaching statement when she says, "For my part, I have come to view teaching as a great privilege as well as a huge responsibility."

Dr. Milambiling's leadership of the TESOL program as MA Coordinator has been crucial to this program's success and impressive growth. She has regularly served more 50-80 advisees between the on campus, online, and teaching endorsement programs at the MA level. This is an enormous number of graduate students to advise through coursework and research papers. The TESOL program has only four faculty members reading papers, so the work in guiding research papers and exams is both voluminous and demanding. In addition, she led the program by drafting the 2015 Academic Program Review self-studies for the TESOL programs (both MA and BA), which resulted in significant curricular changes.

Dr. Milambiling's commitment to graduate education at UNI encompasses more than the TESOL and TESOL/Spanish programs. She has served as a Graduate Council member, as a committee member for the Outstanding Dissertation Award and the Outstanding Master Research Paper Award, and as a judge for the annual symposium. She served for more than ten years on the Honorary Degree committee. Moreover, she was instrumental in designing lessons for Burmese refugees in the community.

It is hard to envision how the TESOL programs at UNI could have thrived as they have without the clear vision and warm heart that Dr. Milambiling has brought to her leadership of them. We will miss her in the Department of Languages and Literatures and wish her well in retirement. Please convey Emeritus Faculty Status on her.

Sincerely,

Julie Husband
Professor, Department of Languages and Literatures