

11-9-2023

Dear Dr. Dobosh,

I am writing to recommend Dr. Sharon Mord for Emeritus faculty status, beginning January 2024. Sharon has worked at the university in various capacities for over 20 years and will retire at the end of this semester. Currently, she is a full-time instructor in the Textiles and Apparel Program. Over her 20 years of service she has been vital to the success of the TAP program and the School of Applied Human Sciences (disbanded last spring). As a result of these contributions I recommend she be granted Emeritus status for some of (but not limited to) the reasons listed below.

**Student Learning**

Dr. Mord is a stellar teacher, and she is truly unique in her approach to ensuring students learn content. TAPP is a skill heavy major, when students are not able to learn the content passively. To make sure students learn the content, Sharon approaches teaching the way a surgeon trains a new surgeon. An aspiring surgeon could attend a lecture and understand how an appendix is removed, but I doubt they could do it. An aspiring surgeon could watch an appendix being removed, but I am not sure I would want them to operate on me. To really learn a skill a student must practice it with varied feedback from someone who has mastery of that skill. Sharon is willing to give of her time to each student in this manner. Be it sewing, printing, pattern creation, or any other skill she meets students where they are and gives them the feedback necessary so they can learn and master a skill. It would be easy to throw a lecture together, Sharon is not one to do things the easy way.

**Maintenance Crew**

TAPP is one of the more equipment heavy majors on campus. They have sewing machines, irons, a giant fabric printer, a steam column to set fabric colors, a spectrometer, and various other expensive gadgets that are important to the discipline. Over multiple uses these items break down or do not work as efficiently as they once did. As any who owns a car or home knows, when something breaks someone has to fix it, be it the owner or a repair person. In TAPP, oftentimes that person is Sharon. I am not sure anyone ever asked Sharon to learn how to fix these items, that is just who Sharon. She sees a problem and she fixes it. Sometimes it is beyond Sharon's ability to fix things, so we pay someone who can. But more times than not, she is able to solve the problem. Her willingness to don her forehead lamp (her forehead lamp has become legendary in SAHS) and dig into the bowels of a fabric printer has ensured that students' projects get done on

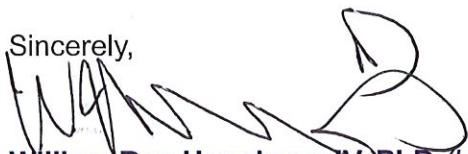
time and that the departmental budget stays reasonably on track. Sharon's value to the department in this area cannot be overstated. Of final note, the majority of TAPP majors are female and I must say, there is something pretty badass about them getting to see a female faculty member fix stuff instead of having to call and wait for a repair "man."

### **The Utility Player**

Sharon is one of the most "game" faculty I have ever met. A few years ago, one of our faculty members became exceptionally ill and was not able to teach the rest of the semester. With this illness came a need for class coverage on a course that required knowledge of several computer programs. Honestly, there is not an adjunct pool at the last moment for that kind of knowledge. However, Sharon was willing to learn the software and teach the class so students could finish the class. She is always willing to pitch in and is fearless in her willingness to undertake uncomfortable and unfamiliar tasks. It is one of the traits I admire the most about her.

Sharon has been an invaluable colleague in our department. Her time here has left a lasting impact on students and colleagues. I fully support her candidacy for Emeritus faculty. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



**William Roy Henninger IV, PhD** *(he/his)*

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