To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for granting Dr. Patrick Pease emeritus status at the University of Northern Iowa. As the Provost, I have had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Pease since my arrival at UNI in July 2021.  Many of you know Patrick in various roles and I can confess to you that he was instrumental in helping me understand some of all he does.  His work in developing a process to address programmatic and curricular functions within the auspices of Academic Positioning has been invaluable. Moreover, his productive career in Physical Geography, specifically his work on Aeolian and Coastal Geomorphology and desert landscapes, has not only made important contributions to his field but also translated well to modeling work in the Provost’s Office.

As a faculty member, chair, Associate Provost, and in various interim roles, Dr. Pease also has made significant contributions to UNI. He has consistently demonstrated a commitment to working with students, improving processes, and developing ideas to completion. These are rare traits that have greatly benefited our institution.

One particular (and emblematic) example that stands out is Dr. Pease’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Without hesitation, he took the initiative to organize spaces to allow our faculty and students to continue their instructional work during the Fall 2020 semester.  For his contributions, Patrick was awarded the first-ever Presidential Medallion in 2022.  His tireless work ethic, often being the first in and last out of the office, enthusiasm for innovation, and strategic thinking will be greatly missed.

Although he will not retire, his career will undoubtedly continue to be associated with UNI. I believe it is wholly consistent and appropriate to offer him one of our most important honors as we wish him well in his next endeavor.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. I firmly believe that Dr. Patrick Pease is deserving of emeritus status, and I am confident that his legacy will continue to positively impact the University of Northern Iowa for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jose Herrera, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs