

April 21, 2021

Dear Chair Burnight and Faculty Senators,

I am writing in support of the emeritus application of Dr. Laura Praglin, and can confirm that she began her time as a faculty member for the University of Northern Iowa in 2001. In these past twenty years, Dr. Praglin has served the university in numerous ways.

Starting with her graduate education, Dr. Praglin's career has been at the intersection of social work and religious studies. Dr. Praglin's graduate education occurred in highly regarded institutions, including a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale University's Divinity School, a Master of Arts in Social Work from The University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from the Divinity School at The University of Chicago. This foundation shaped her scholarship which included publications on the Jewish healing tradition, implications for post-Holocaust social science and theology, and the intersection of spirituality, religion, and social work.

Over her time at UNI, Dr. Praglin has taught a variety of classes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Some key courses that she has frequently taught include Practice with Organizations and Communities, Conflict Resolution, Social Welfare Policy, Human Behavior in Social Environment, and Diversity and Difference. She also coordinated the Conflict Resolution Certificate program that many students have completed.

Dr. Praglin's service has aligned with her interests in spirituality and the advocacy side of the social work profession. On campus, she has served on the Holocaust and Genocide Education Committee, as a representative on the American Democracy Project, and on the academic planning committee for the 2010 Joy Cole Corning Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series event that brought the Dalai Lama to campus. In the community, she has been active with The Canterbury Forums and the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council.

In conclusion, Dr. Praglin's record to UNI is deserving of emeritus status. We wish her the best in retirement, and are sure that she will remain active with her advocacy efforts in the community.

Sincerely,



Brenda L. Bass, Ph. D.
Dean, CSBS