

September 2, 2019

Dr. Jim Mattingly
Chair of the Faculty Senate
University of Northern Iowa

Dear Dr. Mattingly and the University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate,

It is a great pleasure to support Dr. Paul Siddens' application for emeritus status.

Dr. Siddens first came to the University of Northern Iowa in 1988. At his time of retirement this year, he was a full professor and the longest-serving full-time faculty member in the department.

Dr. Siddens has had an impressive career at UNI.

He taught at least 25 different course titles in his years at UNI and combined his interests in literature, poetry, science fiction, and graphic novels into intelligent and imaginative courses. If that sounds both fun and educational, it was. Dr. Siddens' students consistently rated him as a highly effective teacher.

His main contribution in scholarly/creative activity was his work as Technical Director and Designer of the UNI Interpreters Theatre, and often as Producer, Writer or Adapter, and Director of its productions. Each production involved dozens of both undergraduate and graduate students. Over his career, he was a major figure in more than 70 productions at the UNI Interpreters Theatre.

Dr. Siddens was also a champion of faculty self-governance, and served for many years as a CHAS Senator, on the UNI Academic Program Review Committee, with United Faculty in various positions, as well as many, many other service appointments.

In 2011, he received the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Faculty Excellence Award. In 2013, he was recognized with the Iowa Board of Regents Award for Faculty Excellence.

In his final three years with the Department of Communication Studies, Dr. Siddens decided to finally take it easy, and he became the department head.

OK, he didn't take it easy, but he made it look easy. Dr. Siddens was an outstanding department head, and the same patient, thoughtful, deliberative person he had been his entire career.

Speaking for the entire Department of Communication Studies, we would be proud to call him Professor Emeritus.

Sincerely,



Christopher R. Martin
Professor and Interim Department Head
Communication Studies