

February 17, 2021

To the Faculty Senate:

It is my honor and privilege to pen this letter in support of the Emeritus nomination for Art Cox. Art was the interim head of the Finance Department in 2010, the year he hired me as an assistant professor. Since that time, Art has become a valued colleague and a strong personal friend. Looking back over the last 10 or so years, there are several things I have learned about Dr. Arthur Cox.

First, Art knows most of the state of Iowa, or, more aptly, most of the state of Iowa knows Art. During the 32 years of his time at UNI, primarily spent as the director of the Real Estate program in the Finance Department, Art has traveled throughout the state of Iowa networking with professionals in the areas of real estate and banking. He tirelessly spread the word about UNI's program and its students. He logged many hours in his car and on his phone, strengthening those relationships in the real estate industry. His name has become synonymous with real estate in Iowa.

Second, Art was strong in the classroom, stronger than many of his colleagues and students realized. One key accomplishment was his development of the Advanced Real Estate Cases course as a capstone experience for real estate majors. In this course, students walk through the process of constructing a property development report that is presented to real estate industry experts and representatives of the property. To prepare for this course, Art would use his contact network to locate an undeveloped property in Iowa, primarily in the Des Moines area or the Cedar Valley. Students received the experience of the start-to-finish actions required for a real estate development proposal, an unbelievable immersion in the process to which many would be exposed after graduation. Despite some grievances of difficult exams or what appeared to be a very hands-off teaching style, graduates soon came to learn the value they received in Art's classes, the real estate skills and the soft skills that so many employers seek from our students.

Finally, and the most important characteristic that I learned from Art, is his connection with the students. Everything he did for the finance and real estate programs at UNI put the students first. He sought to ensure that the real estate graduates could enter the workforce with all of the tools that employers look for and all of the traits that make each student a better person. Art would often relate stories about going on a vacation or a long weekend. Prior to his trip, whether it was short in distance or long, he would contact UNI real estate alumni, his former students, and schedule a visit, just to stay in touch. I know very few...no,

I do not know anyone in my 15 years of teaching that exhibited that habit. Art always put his students first. This is the one trait that I hope I can someday emulate, but it is a high bar to pass over.

UNI, the Finance department, the Real Estate program, his colleagues, and his students will certainly miss Art. His work ethic was unmatched in the College of Business Administration, where his office was usually occupied six days a week throughout the year, sometimes seven. He has been a great colleague, has been a strong advocate for the university, and continues to be a good friend. We are lucky to have had Dr. Arthur Cox roam these hallways for the past 32 years. I strongly support and recommend his nomination for Emeritus Professor status.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett C. Olsen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brett C. Olsen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Finance
University of Northern Iowa
Office: 319.273.2396
Email: brett.olsen@uni.edu