

February 9, 2024

Melissa Dobrosh, Chair
UNI Faculty Senate

It is my honor and privilege to write in support of Dr. Michelle Swanson's Emeritus request. A complete accounting of Dr. Swanson's many accomplishments is impossible in this format (her Cv runs to 37 pages!); these few brief paragraphs will have to suffice.

Dr. Swanson holds a BM and an MM in music education, both from the University of Northern Iowa. In 2017, she completed the Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at UNI while being employed full-time as a music education faculty member in the School of Music.

Over the course of her career, Dr. Swanson has held teaching appointments at the Malcolm Price Laboratory School (1998-2009), as a music educator within UNI's department of Continuing Education (1999-present), and as a valued faculty member of the School of Music since 1998. Her exemplary work as a master teacher of elementary/general music methods and other music educator essentials is evident in the success of her students, contributing to the strong placement record of music education graduates from the School of Music. In addition to teaching, Dr. Swanson has served a vital role as an advisor to undergraduate music education majors and as a supervisor of student teachers. The School of Music has been truly fortunate to have someone with Dr. Swanson's expertise in matters of curriculum and state Board of Education requirements.

Dr. Swanson has maintained a strong record of scholarly and creative work throughout her career. Due to reductions in staffing, she has shouldered much of the overload in teaching and service, without diminishing her fine record of scholarship. Her dedication to student success and her extra efforts in teaching and service have allowed for the quality of our course offerings to continue and the student experience to remain positive. I have little doubt that the overload situation has contributed to Dr. Swanson's decision to retire at this time, and I have been unable to persuade her to stay on: her departure is a significant loss for the School of Music, the university, and the profession.

I am proud to be able to call Dr. Swanson my colleague and my friend. I heartily endorse her request for Emeritus status, and wish her well on the next phase of her journey.

Sincerely,



Melinda Boyd, Ph.D.
Interim Director and Professor of Music History