

8 August, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to strongly support Dr. John Vallentine's request for emeritus status at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). During my three years as Provost at UNI, I have had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Vallentine and feel I am sufficiently informed about John's contributions to the history of UNI to make this strong recommendation. A few actions stand out for me including his collaborative work with Faculty leaders to transition the Collective Bargaining Agreement into the Faculty Handbook. Moreover, John worked diligently to provide a formal process to deliver relief to faculty whose tenure and promotion process was impacted by COVID disruptions and restrictions.

Perhaps more germane, John has had a long and successful career as a UNI faculty member (since 1991) with stints as the Director of the School of Music from 1999 until 2017 and Associate Provost of Faculty from 2017 until this year when he plans on retiring. During this time, John collaborated with many students and faculty locally and internationally. An accomplished clarinetist and pianist, he has published research on applied music teaching behaviors and offered master classes and performances in places as diverse as Costa Rica and Russia. His bands were even invited to perform during some Green Bay Packers games. Despite this (I'm a Bears fan), there are so many other accomplishments that minor green and yellow blemishes are not visible under the weight of his many superlative accomplishments.

Over his long career, John has managed to keep respectful relationships across UNI and our community—even in light of the many difficult decisions and challenging changes experienced throughout his tenure at UNI. There have been several cases (and countless others that John has solved before my arrival) that are a testament to his listening skills and highlight his experience in navigating complex situations and his ability to understand multiple and nuanced points of view. I will sorely miss John's skills, his sense of humor, his commitment to student success, his ability to manage disagreements and his collaborative approach to faculty governance.

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

Sincerely,



Jose Herrera, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs