



Oct 12 2021

Dear Dean Johnston and members of FPC,

This letter is the 5th year review for Jordan Hanson in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Jordan postponed his 4th year PEGP submission for one year due to the pandemic. However he is still planning to apply for tenure during his 6th year, as is usual. The department is pleased with Jordan's progress along the path to tenure, and we recommend that he be retained.

Jordan's teaching improved greatly over the last several years and he is now receiving very positive evaluations in all his courses. He teaches quite a variety of courses with very different student audiences. First there is algebra-based physics (PHYS135A,B) with an audience of pre-health students which is probably the most difficult course to teach. Students are required to take these courses but are not really excited about the material. Jordan has found a way to satisfy the needs of this group of students and his evaluations are very good. The students find him helpful, kind and very available outside of class. He also teaches calculus-based physics for which his evaluations are also very good. At the upper-level he has taught PHYS330 (Electricity and Magnetism) and COSC330 (Computer Logic and Circuit Design), again with very positive results. He was particularly adept at the transition to online teaching in COSC330, figuring out how students could work on the projects remotely. Finally, Jordan also has taught two CON2 courses and one Freshman Writing Seminar. His CON2 courses dealt with Science in Antarctica and Science in Latin America. Students found these courses to be very interesting and his evaluations again were very good. It is particularly interesting that the second of these courses also satisfies a Culture requirement, making it particularly popular.

Jordan has been very active in scholarship. While the Antarctic research has been on a bit of a hiatus due to the pandemic, Jordan has found other research opportunities. He has received research grants from the Office of Naval Research (ONR) for two consecutive summers. This work, at a research lab in Corona, involves radar applications and can connect up with his Antarctic research activities. This collaboration has expanded Jordan's research into areas that have been accessible to our undergraduate students. He has had 3 students working on projects connected to this research and one of those students is a co-author on a paper which has been accepted for publication in Physical Review D, a very prestigious journal. Jordan also has had a paper published in Electronics Journal which has been rated among the top ten most notable articles of 2020-21. His article deals with phased array design using open-source software and is connected with the work he is doing at the naval research lab in Corona.

This collaboration with the lab in Corona has allowed Jordan to borrow equipment that he uses in his research lab. This is a great opportunity for our students to get to use sophisticated equipment. We are very happy at the level of undergraduate participation in Jordan's research. He is also well on the way to meeting our scholarship requirements for a successful tenure application.

In the area of service we feel that Jordan has performed adequately both within the department and for the college as a whole. He is now on EPC which is a weightier committee assignment and in each committee he has been on he has contributed significantly and with enthusiasm. He hopes to serve on the WSP Council in the near future and we think that is a very sound plan.

Finally, Jordan is more than pulling his weight in advising. He has mentored for two years in a row and has taught Freshman writing once. He now has over 30 mentees and advisees. He takes a very active advising role with his advisees within the major and is careful in advising first-year students.

Overall, we are very pleased with Jordan's performance. His teaching is getting good evaluations and his research is going "full steam ahead". It seems that Jordan has found his "sweet spot" here at Whittier and we look forward to a successful tenure application next year.

Signed,



Seamus Lagan

Chair, Dept. Of Physics and Astronomy



Glenn Piner, Tenured Full Professor

Serkan Zorba, Tenured Full Professor

