Date: 19 March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this letter to comment on the teaching practices of Dr Apurva Nakade. I observed Dr Nakade give a lecture as part of first year level Calculus course on the 5th March 2020. This lecture was part of the Teaching Mentor Program that is offered through the Centre for Teaching and Learning at Western University. The lecture was presented to a class of approximately 100 students, who were in their 1st year of undergraduate degree.

Dr Nakade employed an excellent combination of teaching methods, including the use of the white board to solve equations and useful handouts which allowed students to keep track of the lecture material. The lecture content was organized in a very logical and easy to follow format, with seamless transition between theory, examples and answering student questions. I was especially impressed by the level of student engagement and how much students were encouraged to ask questions. Furthermore, Dr Nakade showed excellent interaction with the students, as seen by him referring to them by name and being clearly familiar with their level of knowledge. I was especially impressed by how Dr Nakade used his familiarity with the students to ensure questions are answered by different students and more people in the class had the opportunity to participate.

I observed a great relationship between Dr Nakade and his students, with open communication and feedback on how equations should be solved. He also clearly embraced suggestions for alternative solutions, but also emphasized the benefits and drawbacks of the alternative methods. I was delighted to see Dr Nakade bring in previous lectures and specific examples of equations that are needed for the current material to be analysed and focusing on key concepts.

Overall, I found the lecture I attended to be very well planned and executed, with a great balance of active learning components and real-life applications.

Sincerely,

Dr Mariya Goncheva
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