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Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this reference in support of Dr Apurva Nakade, a fellow postdoctoral associate working at Western University. As a part of the Teaching Mentor Program offered by the Centre for Teaching and Learning, I observed Dr Nakade conduct a Calculus 1501B lecture for approximately 100 students on February 24, 2020.

Dr Nakade made use of a whiteboard in his lecture. Through the combination of clear writing, coloured markers, and good board practices (e.g., separating important information within boxes, separating portions of boards with vertical lines), I found his material very easy to follow. Something that stood out to me was that he carried no personal notes and everything he wrote for the students was from memory or improvised, clearly showing his mastery of the subject matter.

Dr Nakade also demonstrated great interactions with his students. Frequently throughout the lecture he would pause and prompt the class for any questions that they may have had. Despite the large size of his class, he responded to students by name, which was very impressive. After answering a particularly important question, he wrote the answer down on the board so that nobody in the class would miss it. Throughout the lecture, when Dr Nakade asked his students questions, there were no issues having them participate and provide their thoughts. Following the conclusion of the lecture, he remained in the classroom to answer any remaining questions from his students.

Having personally taken dozens of courses in Mathematics and Statistics, it is my impression that Dr Nakade is off to a strong start as a lecturer and will continue to improve as he continues his career in academics. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kevin Granville