

February 22, 2023

Dear SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Administrators:

I emphatically and enthusiastically recommend the continuing appointment of Dr. Supraja Gurajala in the Department of Computer Science and promotion to Associate Professor.

From the beginning of her time at Potsdam, Dr. Gurajala has been an integral part of all aspects of the Computer Science Department. She has made important contributions in curriculum development, teaching, advising, and service, while remaining research-active throughout. Her achievements in all areas far exceed expectations for continuing appointment at SUNY Potsdam.

Dr. Gurajala was instrumental in the redesign of the Computer Science curriculum. Her domain expertise enables long-term sustainability of the proposed Data Analytics Track. She developed two new courses in that track for instruction, CIS 431 *Machine Learning* and CIS 325 *Data Analysis and Visualization*. She accomplished complete redesigns of two advanced courses, CIS 420 *Database Systems* and CIS 475 *Introduction to Cryptography*. As part of the department's redesign of our introductory course sequence, she contributed to the realignment of course content and developed all the new materials for CIS 201 *Computer Science I*. Dr. Gurajala also made substantial contributions to the proposed new track in Cybersecurity.

Dr. Gurajala consistently makes significant contributions through her teaching. She has taught more new courses in her time at Potsdam than any of her department colleagues, teaching 12 different courses in total, several of which were new courses. She receives strong evaluations from students and takes student feedback and performance very seriously when planning a new iteration of a course. She has supervised several student capstone projects every year. These projects are a considerable investment of faculty time and effort without counting toward faculty load. Of particular note, in October 2022, one of her project students presented their project research at a professional research conference.

Dr. Gurajala continues to excel in scholarly achievement, adding several publications in recent years, despite the challenges of conferences and other research work in the COVID-19 era. Given the teaching and service load she has carried, this steady scholarly output is particularly impressive. Dr. Gurajala has participated in six grant proposal initiatives since 2017, ranging from medical applications with St. Lawrence Health System to sensor networks to scholarship initiatives. She has maintained active research collaborations and served on graduate committees at Clarkson University while developing new collaborations with St. Lawrence Health Systems.

The service that Dr. Gurajala performs is, in my opinion, far above expectations for her current career stage. She serves in multiple roles at department, school, and university levels. In the department, Dr. Gurajala advises about one-third of our Computer Science majors and goes well beyond the normal scope of that role in her attempts to reach all her advisees. She has been assisting with organizing and coaching our Computer Science Department Tutors for the past several years. She is currently the department's delegate to the Faculty Senate and serves as an elected At Large delegate to the Arts and Sciences Council. She is a member of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, the Academic Programs and Curriculum Committee, and the Business Affairs Committee. Her presence on the school and senate-level committees was invaluable in the process of gaining approval for the proposed Computer Science curriculum revisions. She served as the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate for part of her term on that committee (2020-2021), and was at that time a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC).

Computer Science is fortunate to have a faculty colleague like Dr. Gurajala. She is an indispensable part of our department team as a teacher, a fine scholar, and in service to all levels of the university community and beyond. I am confident that she will continue to make significant contributions to Computer Science and the university's mission well into the future. I strongly recommend Dr. Gurajala's continuing appointment and promotion to Associate Professor and concur with the recommendation of the department personnel committee.

Respectfully,
Laura M. Grabowski, Ph. D., Department Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Computer Science