May 19, 2009

To: Admissions Appeals

I am writing in regard to Julie Flynn’s appeal for admission to San Diego State for the Fall 2009 semester. I realize that in the appeal process only certain criteria can be used to determine the legitimacy of an appeal. If one of those criteria might be students’ performance in the courses that they have taken at San Diego State, even through Open University, then Julie’s performance this last semester in two classes which I taught could be relevant.

Julie was a student of mine in Contemporary Sociological Theory and Wealth, Status and Power at San Diego State. Both of the courses are required for Sociology majors. Julie received an A in the theory course and a B in the Wealth, Status and Power course. She significantly exceeded the combined grade average of the two courses which was approximately 2.7. She attended regularly, wrote excellent papers, participated in class discussion and did well on all the exams. Of the students that took both courses from me last semester, only one, a graduating senior Sociology major, performed better than Julie.

Julie is the type of student that makes teaching a meaningful experience and I would like to see her as a Sociology major at San Diego State. I hope the above can be helpful in making a determination on Julie’s appeal.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tom Semm

Department of Sociology