



September 8, 2023

To Rank, Promotion and Tenure Committee,

I write in support of Dr. Kevin Spicer's promotion to full professor. I haven't had enough opportunities to work with Dr. Spicer during his tenure here, but hope to in the near future. We worked together some when Foundations I was developing. Each semester we have several not so short hallway conversations, which often spawn interesting ideas about how the sciences and humanities overlap. However, the ideas we have for collaboration never seem to move to actual collaborations due to conflicting schedules. Dr. Spicer approaches problems or topics in really unique ways and offers insights different than those I consider. I like that about him. He makes me think.

While I have not served on committees with Dr. Spicer, or worked with him on specific projects, I know he has a pivotal role in students' education at USF. Dr. Spicer is that professor a rare but unique set of students seek out and need. These are the slightly eccentric students who really want to think deeply, to be pushed, and to analyze the meaning of stuff at a level many of us choose not to explore. Dr. Spicer challenges these students by engaging them in discussion and argumentation. He offers alternative views. He pushes back on what the students already think or believe. He opens up doors, or perhaps windows, by sharing with them writings of academics they likely never heard of. He brings them into the conversation, listening to them as well as asking them to actually think bigger. For these students, Dr. Spicer's tutelage, engagement, mentorship is pivotal to their education.

I know of Dr. Spicer's ability to do this because several students I too worked with had this type of relationship with him. The great respect these students have for him and their appreciation for him is obvious in the way they talk about him. He impacts their lives in more ways than he likely knows. Additionally, I know the importance of professors like Dr. Spicer because I too had similar professors. Their impact on my education and on my life is immeasurable. They helped shape my life, just as Dr. Spicer is doing for his students.

We need professors like Dr. Spicer, which is why I support his application to professor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Hedrick". The script is cursive and fluid.

Lisa Hedrick, Ph.D  
Professor of Biochemistry.