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Dear Committee,

I had the privilege of being Mr. Katell's student for *Information Ethics and Policy* (INFO 450) in the Spring quarter of 2018. Though this seems like a short period of time, his teaching had a lasting impact on my education and career. More importantly, Mr. Katell made the class genuinely fun and interesting (as I'm sure you're aware, a fun and interesting class can be a rare occurrence in college).

Mr. Katell acted as the lead teaching assistant (TA) in INFO 450, meaning that he led the classes outside of lecture. From my experience, TA's have the most interaction with students as they teach the class concepts and give feedback on work. Taking *Information Ethics and Policy* is a degree requirement for the Information School at the University of Washington. It's meant to teach fundamentals of ethics and philosophy, and consider data and technology through this lense. My peers who took the course with other instructors before me cautioned that the class could be dull. Thanks to Mr. Katell, that was not my experience at all.

Throughout the quarter Mr. Katell made me and my peers want to work harder. A key factor in this was the care he took to leave thorough, personalized feedback on all of our work. Across all his students he left impressively detailed comments that helped us iterate on our writing and analysis. That is not to say that Mr. Katell was an easy instructor—his high standards pushed us all to refine our skills.

Mr. Katell kept class engaging by framing philosophical concepts in the context of the technology industry. He encouraged us to share and discuss our own ethical analysis about current events. For example, one class discussion centered on the recent news that the app Grindr was sharing the HIV status of its users with outside companies. As we discussed current news and events, I was struck by how sensitive Mr. Katell was, especially on issues of privilege and oppression. He demonstrated a level of understanding and empathy that is unique among the teachers I've had in college.

I still reflect on the discussions we had in Mr. Katell's class. His teachings instilled in me a sense of duty when considering what path I might choose within technology. While at my current job, I often recall the current events we discussed and consider the moral implications of my own work. Thoughtfulness and empathy is essential for anyone who chooses to participate in the technology industry. With Mr. Katell's guidance, my peers and I had the opportunity to start practicing these skills early on.

Mr. Katell's infectious passion and exceptional teaching ability would make him the obvious choice for any faculty position. He has my most enthusiastic recommendation.

Sincerely,  
August Carow