

To: The College Awards of Distinction Committee

From: Stephane Collignon, Ph.D. Associate Professor of MIS

Date: 03/03/2025

Subject: Recommendation of Dr. M.J. Ahmad for the College Teaching Award of Distinction (Full-Time Faculty)

Dr. Ahmad's 2024 teaching year is outstanding both because of the quality of his teaching performance and the volume of efforts he deployed.

Dr. Ahmad's contract with WVU involves a research component, which means teaching is not his sole focus in our institution. Based on this contract, Dr. Ahmad is supposed to teach 6 sections per year. In 2024, Dr. Ahmad taught 11 sections instead of 6. These 11 sections correspond to 8 different courses.

These 8 different courses belong to the MIS and CYBER curricula, at undergraduate and graduate levels. In both programs, the courses Dr. Ahmad taught are highly technical and challenging to business students. Because of his impressive versatility, technicality, and approachability, Dr. Ahmad can teach effectively at all levels and in all our most technical programs. It is my belief that no other professor in our department could have performed as well as Dr. Ahmad did in the same conditions. Dr. Ahmad accepted teaching so many sections because of his altruistic nature and commitment to our students' success.

Competence, altruism and commitment are most likely the root of his excellent student evaluations. In their evaluations of Dr. Ahmad's performance, students express their satisfaction while acknowledging how difficult and technical the courses are, and how demanding Dr. Ahmad is.

Regarding how challenging Dr. Ahmad's classes are, we can see that the students' feedback is genuine because they also evaluate that they learned a lot during Dr. Ahmad's classes. They learned new material, new languages (e.g., Java), and business skills such as managing technical projects. These technical and managerial skills contribute to the strong positioning of our students on the job market.

In addition, Dr. Ahmad was an essential contributor to the development of 2 new classes that will soon be offered by the MIS department within the new BS in AI and Data Analytics.

Dr. Ahmad meets and exceeds the qualifications for this award. His work contributes greatly to the elite stature John Chambers College of Business and Economics strives for.

I strongly recommend Dr. Ahmad for the College Distinction in Teaching Award for full-time faculty.

*Stephane Collignon*