



December 3, 2018

Dear Members of the Search Committee:

It is my pleasure to offer a recommendation for Dr. Nicholas Marshall for the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at Seton Hall University. I have known Nick since fall 2017, when we co-taught the Colloquium on the Ancient World for the Seton Hall University Honors Program. During this period of time, and subsequently, I have come to know him quite well. He is bright, hardworking, friendly, outgoing, and a person of obvious integrity.

Nick has the gift of being a teacher. This became evident to me in our teaching as well as in our many informal office conversations. Nick was always well-prepared for classes, but he could also remain flexible if the class discussion warranted it. He brings a fire and enthusiasm to the job that complements his incredible breadth of knowledge. His broad interests in classics, religion, and philosophy makes him especially well-suited for teaching our department's introductory courses in religion.

In his teaching, Nick could vary between broad surveys of material, close in-depth reading, and class-led discussions. He could shift in and out of these modes and remained sensitive to the needs of the class and the students. In his grading, Nick consistently went above and beyond the norm, writing detailed feedback on student papers and striving to help students not only improve their expression of thought but also their basic grammar and organization in essays.

I found Nick to be a dedicated and compassionate teacher and mentor who carried on conversations with students in office hours for long periods of time. As Nick's office mate, I also witnessed his interactions with students whom he taught in the CORE Journey of Transformation, Colloquium of the Ancient World, Early Christian Thought, and Religions of the World. I was especially struck by his ability to excite students about religion and philosophy, instilling in them curiosity, critical thinking, and an openness needed to excel in the 21st century.

Nick was also constantly seeking to improve in his teaching. He sought my mentorship and advice and I know from our conversations that he took advantage of pedagogical workshops offered on campus.

For his knowledge, ability, enthusiasm, and drive to constantly improve, I give Nick my unequivocal recommendation.

Sincerely,

Michael Maloney, Ph.D.
Lecturer
Department of Religion
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