

School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems

November 15th, 2023

CEIAS P&T Committee, and other Authorities,

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Truong Nghiem for promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure.

Dr. Nghiem joined SICCS in 2018 as a high research productivity faculty. Dr. Nghiem's Student Related Activities comprised 24% (on average) of his workload allocation. He has shown himself to be an exemplary mentor and teacher. He has taught 10 sections of undergraduate and graduate electrical engineering courses and has developed 3 brand new courses for NAU – Advanced Automatic Controls (EE559), Introduction to Autonomous Driving (EE499), and Modern Control Systems (EE599). His average student evaluation scores were a very solid 3.5 and above. Importantly, Dr. Nghiem has invested a substantial amount of effort to prepare his students for their future careers: he supervised 49 research students at undergraduate and graduate level, mentored 9 capstone teams, and co-published 8 papers with his students (of which 7 had a student first author). His students won best presentation awards, NAU Presidential Fellowship, co-founded a US robotics startup company, and went on to pursue a career in academia. In short, his teaching efforts exemplify NAU's Elevating Excellence and 100%-career ready goals – he is an asset to the Unit and NAU.

His Research and Scholarly Activity workload averaged 63% during his time at NAU and he has been extremely active and successful in this area. Dr. Nghiem has secured more than \$10.7 million dollars of external funding (at PI or Co-PI level) since joining NAU, of which \$2.3M are under his direct management. He has published 28 manuscripts over the course of his career. According to Google scholar he has an h- index of 18, i10-index of 27, and 1208 total citations. He is a recipient of the highly prestigious NSF CAREER award that recognizes and supports exceptionally promising new scholars. He has been promoted to senior member of IEEE, as a recognition of his scholarly accomplishments. In short, he has clearly established a national and international reputation as an outstanding scholar in his field.

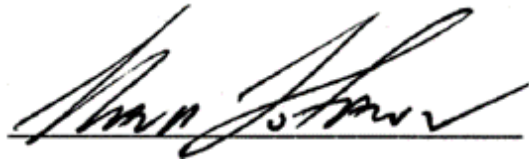
Finally, Dr. Nghiem has made substantial Service (~10% workload, on average) contributions to the School, University, and his profession. He has served his field as a reviewer for multiple NSF panels and as an organizer of multiple conferences. He has served multiple years on NAU's University Graduate Committee, the Academic Integrity Committee, and the NAU Energy Action Team. He has served his unit in Faculty Status Committee, as well as ECE Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committees. In short, he has demonstrated an established and sustained pattern of service exemplary of an NAU faculty.

Dr. Nghiem's external "arms-length" reviewers are unanimous in their strong support for his promotion application, highlighting his exceptional extramural funding record, his exceptional publication record, his commitment to student success, and his substantial service efforts. The external reviewers were particularly impressed with Dr. Nghiem's proposal success rate – 37%, an extremely high 'hit' rate for the industry that averages 7-10% success rate.

The SICCS Faculty Status Committee is, likewise, in strong support of Dr. Nghiem's application.

With this letter, I would like to add my strong and unqualified support to Dr. Nghiem's Associate Professor with Tenure application. We are very lucky to have Dr. Nghiem at NAU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Slava Fofanov", written over a horizontal line.

Viacheslav (Slava) Fofanov, Ph.D.

Director, SICCS
Northern Arizona University
Viacheslav.Fofanov@nau.edu
1-928-523-7664