

21 May 2001, Monday

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have known Mr. Laurie since 1985 as a graduate student at Michigan Tech and later as an Instructor in Electrical Engineering.

For the current academic year 2000/01, Robert Laurie's primary focus was the course EE3010, Introduction to Electrical Engineering for non-departmental undergraduate students in engineering. This year Michigan Tech University converted to semesters from trimesters. Mr. Laurie created a course under the new format, teaching key concepts from the trimester equivalents of 6 credits of lecture and 2 credits of lab, and create a close to equivalent course utilizing 2 credits of lecture and a 1 credit lab. This course was the pre-requisite to my BioInstrumentation course

When Mr. Laurie took over the responsibility of teaching this course, he organized meetings to discuss requirements with faculty that teach the follow-up courses. He developed a completely new course, including lab exercises, a custom book, computer simulations, and an online learning tools.

This academic year Mr. Laurie taught 375 students in EE3010 and 50 students in EE4272 Computer Networking. Even with such large sections and few credits, he was able to teach the concepts far better it would seem then the previous instructor or courses. I noticed marked improvements in the backgrounds of students who took the new course from Mr. Laurie then the ones who took the trimester equivalent. Furthermore, students spoke highly of him as well as his teaching style, educational materials, and knowledge. I think having a mechanical engineering undergraduate, he was able to relate to the conceptual difficulties of electrical engineering, and explain them to the students with ease.

A member of my family attended some of his lectures on web page design, and she did also speak very highly of his teaching abilities as well as the technical strength. He was also very interested in finding out about the outcome of his activities. He did repeatedly inquired about the success rates of his students in advanced courses, and asked what he could to do further improve their learning.

I believe Mr. Laurie is very committed to teaching, and he is a very good teacher. I also think he has a strong engineering background, and a solid understanding of computer technology. Therefore, I encourage potential employers to give the due consideration to his application for professional employment.

Best regards,



Orhan Soykan, Ph.D.