



THOMAS MORE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

November 2, 2018

Provost Garriga and Faculty Relations Committee,

This is a recommendation that Dr. Joe Christensen, Associate Provost and Departmental Chairperson, be promoted to Full Professor.

Dr. Christensen has become the face of the Mathematics and Physics Department at the University. He is well liked and widely regarded as thoughtful and considerate. He listens well and attends to detailed work closely. Beyond his extremely demanding and complicated support for the administration, and work during the transition from college to university status, he has produced three on-line laboratory manuals and much of the on-line text proposed for his sabbatical during the fall of 2017. He also headed the Quality Enhancement Project for three years. Dr. Huber reported that Dr. Christensen consistently assisted him and included him in decisions, even though he was the sabbatical replacement. No one is more committed to the quality of this institution than Dr. Christensen.

His sabbatical project was to create an on-line algebra based physics text for PHY 121 and associated laboratories. To that end he mastered new software (MathJaX) and the business end of self-publishing. The project has been completely implemented for three laboratories, PHY 121L, 122L and 220L and the laboratory text is proceeding smoothly, given his administrative constraints.

Students can now pull up the laboratory material on their phone or their laptop. But for those who prefer to work from paper, it is possible to print out copies using a pdf. Dr. Christensen has literally implemented every possible delivery format for all students in the biology physics sequence. Dr. Huber, the sabbatical replacement for these courses, taught the laboratories from the developing application as it was being written. He currently uses it in its completed form and he assures the department that it has been a complete success and that it is easy to use on all platforms. Students respond well to the new delivery mode and report no problems. Additionally, Dr. Christensen is writing a textbook for the PHY 121, 122 sequence and this is progressing well. Even the student worker who sets up the lab has instructions available in this format. We note that at the University of Cincinnati, one of our colleagues, Dr. Larry Bortner, has a full time job doing exactly this kind of work. Dr. Christensen has done this in his spare time, while carrying a large administrative load and while continuing to teach classes.

Links to all of this work can be found here:

<http://physics.thomasmore.edu/ConnectedPhysics/>

<http://physics.thomasmore.edu/Labs/121/>

<http://physics.thomasmore.edu/Labs/122/>

<http://physics.thomasmore.edu/Labs/220/>

<http://physics.thomasmore.edu/Labs/TMC-lab-setup.html>

Briefly, the department sees Dr. Christensen's work as *exceptional*. He has far exceeded the faculty requirements for contributions to furthering the institution's goals, efficiency, commitment to student-centered learning and scholarship.

We are happy to strongly recommend that Dr. Joe Christensen be promoted to Full Professor.

Sincerely,

Robert Riehemann

Wes Ryle

Jyoti Saraswat

Harold Smith

Jack Wells

Department of Mathematics and Physics