

FACULTY EVALUATION: CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY

Faculty Being Reviewed: Joe Christensen

Date: May 2008

Position/Department: Physicist Associate Professor, Non-Tenured

Reviewer/Chairperson: Bob Riehemann

Time Period Beginning: Fall 2007 and Ending: Spring 2008

SUMMARY

I. Basic Evaluation:

This is the end of Joe's first year at Thomas More. He was brought in as an Associate Professor and this was clearly the correct level. Although his committee duties for the college consisted of the library committee, he did yeoman's work for the department. In particular, his work on the search committee for the astronomy hire was exceptional. He arranged the travel, set the agenda, and kept all records organized. We could not have done as well without Joe's assistance. He also participated very strongly in the dual credit work for Notre Dame and the Curriculum Map. We have discussed program revisions and he brought some good ideas to the table. His handling of the electronics course has been impressive also.

On his own initiative, Joe contacted all departmental alumni (including mathematics) and provided them with individualized newsletters of the department. He has a real sense, from his previous job of departmental chair in Texas, of effective ways to keep alumni interested. I suspect that this will be one of his most important contributions to the college.

My review of Joe's exams, discussions with students about his teaching and occasional eavesdropping in his lectures and laboratories have convinced me that Joe is an excellent and very professional instructor. His work is well-organized and thoroughly covers the topics at the appropriate level. He is knowledgeable enough to supplement the text when required and not intimidated by the task. Nor is he afraid to speak his mind in a group discussion. I believe that students benefit not only from his technical competence, but from his example of confidence and spirited inquiry.

He also gave an interesting talk to the Mathematics/Physics Club on the theory of quark-quark interaction as mediated by gluons, his area of research. *Finally*, someone got a physics student to take an interest in a theoretical topic. I was ecstatic.

Joe's first year has been an excellent one.

- II. Appraisal for promotion/tenure (if applicable); continuation (if new faculty member or adjunct).

Joe's performance is fully in keeping with the tradition of strong teaching at Thomas More College. He should be retained; if necessary, he should be chained to preclude any attempt to leave.

FEEDBACK

A. This faculty member has demonstrated strengths in the following areas (include any ideas for the further development of these strengths).

Joe's has a lot of strengths and I hope that he develops them all. Of most use to our students, with a traditional weakness in theoretical background, would be his continued emphasis on the importance of mathematical preparation and the importance of theoretical topics. He should ensure that his research is not neglected.

B. This faculty member should strive to improve in the performance of duties in the following areas (include suggestions for improvement):

No recommendations at this time.

C. The following special information and/or circumstances are pertinent to the understanding of this review:

This is Joe's first year at Thomas More College.

D. Recommendation for promotion/tenure (if applicable); continuation (if new or adjunct faculty member):

Not applicable.

Interviewee:

Date:

Interviewer:

Date:

(Signature does not imply agreement with the above contents. The interviewee can attach a rebuttal if so desired. *Based on a model from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.)