

November 13, 2018

Dear Provost Garriga and Faculty Relations Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of Dr. Joe Christensen's application for Full Professor at Thomas More University. I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Dr. Christensen on many faculty committees, in the QEP Critical Thinking Program, and in the First-Year Seminar Program. As FGA Chair, I have frequently interacted with Dr. Christensen in his current roles as Associate Provost of Thomas More University and faculty representative to the Board of Trustees. Based on my experiences working with Dr. Christensen, I enthusiastically offer my highest recommendation in support of his promotion to the rank of Full Professor. In what follows, I will share some of what has impressed me most about Dr. Christensen, and highlight a few of his many contributions to academic life at Thomas More University.

In his work as Assistant Dean, and now Associate Provost, I have found Dr. Christensen to be warmly collegial, fair-minded, and thoughtful. His deeply felt concern for students, faculty, and staff, is evident in all that Dr. Christensen does, and he can always be counted on to carefully and thoughtfully address whatever issue or problem is brought to his attention. Similarly, in his role as faculty representative to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Christensen is a model of careful deliberation and judicious reflection. I frequently consult Dr. Christensen about a wide range of matters related to my responsibilities as FGA Chair, and have greatly benefited from his guidance in every instance.

Dr. Christensen's work directing the QEP from 2010-2016 demonstrated exemplary service to Thomas More and, at the same time, involved significant scholarship/creative work in the form of workshops, presentations, discussion sessions, newsletter articles, and other activities centered on the theme of critical thinking. I participated in multiple workshops on critical thinking facilitated by Dr. Christensen, and can testify to the extensive amount of background research that was involved in reviewing the literature on critical thinking and pedagogy. Dr. Christensen, in collaboration with other QEP participants, selected a framework for understanding critical thinking and a methodology appropriate for Thomas More's QEP, which was then implemented in stages. In working through and adapting the Paul-Elder critical thinking method for implementation at Thomas More, then, Dr. Christensen was engaged in an extensive, and collaborative research project in the areas of critical thinking and pedagogy.

As a former Director of the First-Year Seminar Program, I can also attest to Dr. Christensen's excellence in the areas of teaching and advising. Dr. Christensen served as an FYS faculty member during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic years. He was among the most enthusiastic, knowledgeable and committed FYS faculty members that I worked with in my eight years directing the program. His FYS courses were designed with an obvious devotion to students and student-centered learning, as well as a sincere commitment to interdisciplinary dialogue.

For all of the above reasons and more, I enthusiastically support Dr. Christensen's application for promotion to Full Professor at Thomas More University.

Sincerely,

Jerome Langguth, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Philosophy
Chair of the Faculty General Assembly