

WINONA

STATE UNIVERSITY

December 21, 2018

Re: Tenure & Promotion; Silas Bergen

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to support Silas Bergen, Ph.D., for tenure and promotion in the department of Mathematics and Statistics. I have interacted with Silas as part of his position as director of the Statistical Consulting Center (SCC). I have utilized the center several times to develop and analyze research and classroom activities. In my opinion, the SCC is a great asset to the WSU community and this that this reflects Silas' abilities and leadership. Silas has welcomed and encouraged new projects and ensures rapid and high quality outcomes.

Silas has structured the SCC to be adaptable and meet the needs of the investigator/client, but also to benefit WSU students whenever possible. I have experienced both avenues. When working directly with Silas I found him approachable, eager to help, knowledgeable, reliable, and an effective communicator. I have also worked with the SCC as part of the Stat 370 course, where WSU students serve as the lead consultant under Silas' mentorship. I visited the classroom and had the opportunity to learn from Silas alongside his students. The students then performed analyses, wrote reports, and presented the outcomes. This was a fantastic experience for the students. Because I enjoy learning in addition to obtaining statistical results, I also benefitted from this experience. It was my impression that Silas could have analyzed the data himself with less time and effort invested. However, he seemed to recognize the value of teaching and providing students with hands-on experiences. Although it might be tempting for Silas to grow impatient or frustrated, he consistently demonstrated effective mentoring and leadership. Involvement in statistical consulting is a valuable opportunity for students and other WSU parties interested in learning, and I believe Silas should be commended for his efforts.

Sincerely,



Jacob H. Hines, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Biology Department
Winona State University
(507) 457-5279
jhhines@winona.edu

