



October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

To The Esteemed Members of the Tenure Committee:

I am writing to lend my support for Dr. Christopher Friend's tenure.

My friend and default for all things electronically pedagogical, Chris embodies the spirit of Saint Leo's student-centered community.

I have worked with Chris on The Language Studies & The Arts Chair Search Committee, as a Safe Zone Ally and in my position as chair for the University Explorations Advisory Council.

He is a valued peer, always willing to lend a voice, hand and expertise to a colleague, department, events or even outreach. Chris doesn't just talk about doing something, he does it. His tenacity in supporting inclusivity through his sponsorship of Prism, our first Gay-Straight Alliance and facilitating Safe-Zone training at our institution is laudable.

His commitment to teaching using technology is evident through his suggestions to improve the ways in which we engage students and provide real world applications of their work. To this end, Chris has led a focused committee in revamping a new version of ENG 121/122. His suggestion to shift these courses to WRI 121/122 better serves our students and creates relevancy of their aligned knowledge and skill outcomes to future use regardless of any respective major. This has involved tireless work incorporating suggestions from his department and feedback from the University Explorations Advisory Council. In my three years as chair for the UEAC, I have never seen anyone not only meet, but exceed our expectations in reimagining a course for our general education program. This work not only supports and promotes our student-centered approach but also helps set Saint Leo University apart from versions of this foundational general education coursework currently offered at peer institutions.

On a personal level, I appreciate his ability to mediate conversations and get to the heart of a matter during discussions with compassion and understanding. He is incredibly inspiring and supportive. I count myself extremely lucky to have him as a friend and colleague.

For all these reasons, Dr. Christopher Friend is deserving of tenure.

Respectfully,

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