

October 1, 2019

Dear Promotion and Tenure Committee Members:

I would like to provide a strong recommendation for the tenure of Dr. Christopher Friend at Saint Leo University. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Friend since 2015 in a variety of different areas and I can safely say that he truly embodies the core values and mission of Saint Leo University.

The first time I worked with Dr. Friend was on the QEP Faculty Fellows program in 2015. We worked together to improve our approach to student learning by incorporating more critical thinking concepts into our courses. That work was closely followed by our work together on the Content Initiative Workgroup (and its Technology Subgroup), led by Steven Rheinschmidt, where we worked on developing a University-wide plan to reduce the overall cost to Saint Leo students through utilizing Open Educational Resources. We both ended up re-developing some of our courses so the students had zero textbook costs!

I have also worked extensively with Chris in the University Senate. A number of years ago, we both served on the Technology Advisory Committee of the University Senate. He provided very valuable insights as we worked as a committee to advise the administration on ways to improve the technological infrastructure at Saint Leo University. More recently, as President of the senate, I am again serving on the Technology Advisory Committee with Chris, where he continues to provide insights and bring up issues that are central to the efficient functioning of Saint Leo University.

Last year, I was serving as the academic advisor to the baseball team and had one of the student-athletes on that team fail one of Dr. Friend's classes. I reached out to him to discuss the situation and during those conversations, we both came to the realization that our teaching philosophies and student-centered approach were very closely aligned.

As a result of these various collaborations together, I believe I have a very unique perspective on Dr. Friend's ability to collaborate across the University, challenge long-held assumptions about student learning, and keep student interests at the forefront of his thinking. He firmly excels in each of those areas.

I strongly support Christopher Friend's tenure application.

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