

# Memorandum

DATE: October 25, 2005

TO: Geoff Sauer

FROM: Charlie Kostelnick *ck*

SUBJECT: Review

The Review Committee has deliberated on your review materials. Below is a summary of the evaluations of the Review Committee in the areas of teaching, research, and service, which they were asked to evaluate on the following scale: excellent, highly competent, competent, and less than competent. I have also listed some of the key points and themes in their evaluations as well as provided suggestions for future directions, which I hope you will find useful to you as you prepare for your promotion and tenure review. Overall, as the evaluations below indicate, you have been doing terrific work.

## Research

Overall evaluation: Excellent (8), Highly Competent (2)

Key points in evaluations:

- ◆ steady flow of publications and conference presentations are establishing a presence in the field of digital rhetoric.
- ◆ book project (submitted to MIT Press) is extremely promising and will likely be the scholarly centerpiece of your promotion and tenure case.
- ◆ garnered several grants, including for the E-Server and from the Iowa DOT and NSF.

## Teaching

Overall evaluation: Excellent (5), Highly Competent (5)

- ◆ pedagogy blends theory and technology, which is exactly what the department expects (though sometimes undergraduates may resist it).
- ◆ serves on several of POS Committees and is obviously in high demand.

- ◆ student evaluations are strong, especially for upper-level and graduate courses.
- ◆ Center for New Media serves as a valuable teaching studio.

## Service

Overall evaluation: Excellent (9), Highly Competent (1)

- ◆ performed a variety of departmental service, including active involvement in the RPC Area and the Computer Resources Committee.
- ◆ contributions toward rebuilding the department website were enormously valuable to colleagues, the department as a whole, and prospective students.
- ◆ E-Server is a major contribution to the humanities in general and professional communication in particular.

## Suggestions for Future Directions

- ◆ continue to teach the courses you're now teaching, both for the sake of efficiency and because you're teaching them well.
- ◆ finish up your book project, but also continue to submit article-length manuscripts to refereed publications.
- ◆ continue your service in the RPC Area and on Computer Resources Committee, but be selective beyond that.
- ◆ continue managing the E-Server enterprise as a scholarly service to the profession as well as professional practice.

Overall, the Committee found great strength in your scholarship, and they were more than satisfied with your teaching and service. About your teaching, one reviewer commented, that "Geoff is very professional and knowledgeable teacher whose students recognize and respect his expertise. Students in a university of science and technology respond to an instructor who is as much 'technical' as he is 'communication.'" Another observed, "He is known as a serious, dedicated, and demanding teacher. He has been active in curriculum development and has participated in CELT workshops about teaching." Yet another stated, "His teaching is a wonderful combination of theory and practice, and even is students seem to recognize this. He has taught 6 different course, and greatly revised most of them, and proposed two 400/500 multi-media courses. The courses he has created, revised, and taught are essential to the new undergraduate degree program."

About your research, one Committee member remarked, "Geoff has continued on a trajectory that he had before he came to ISU. He was very productive before getting here, he has continued to be very productive, and his article, technical reports, and book manuscript show that he is well positioned at this point in his career." Another commented that "Geoff's case is a mold-breaker in its own way. One must take into consideration the fruits of his electronic research; there, you'll find a cornucopia." About your work with the E-Server, another Committee member remarked, "Prof. Sauer has also a huge electronic presence that represents a great deal of professional work and which has a significant professional impact. The E-Server and things like "Technical Communication Library" are important pieces of professional work. The bibliography in the 'Technical Communication Library' would, in another era, be a major print publication, but appears electronically now because it is more useful in that medium."

About your service, another Committee member stated, "Geoff is on the ISU library committee, the Sigma Tau Delta honor society advisor, an STC advisor, a member of the English Department computer resources committee, and a major force behind the redesign of the English Department website. There is no doubt that he is a useful colleague who does his share of the service work. His colleagues report that he is always 'on call' to help them with their own technology problems, as well. Keep up the good work."