MEMORANDUM

November 20, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Appointment of Distinguished Teaching Professors

Action Requested

The proposed resolution appoints the faculty members listed below to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor at the State University of New York campus indicated.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Board of Trustees has proudly established a historic tradition of acknowledging and honoring extraordinary faculty achievement through appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank; and

Whereas the appointment to the Distinguished Faculty Rank at the State-operated campuses is both a system-wide distinction and a promotion in rank; and

Whereas the SUNY Board of Trustees has the authority to bestow system-wide distinctions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that each faculty member listed below be, and hereby is, promoted to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor at the State-operated campus indicated, effective November 20, 2019:

Professor Jill K. Singer, State University of New York College at Buffalo;

Professor Margaret J. Tally, State University of New York Empire State College;
Board Resolution                                                   -2-                                        November 20, 2019

Professor Michael Jabot, State University of New York
College at Fredonia;

Professor Harry Howe, State University of New York
College at Geneseo; and

Professor John Rocco, State University of New York
Maritime College.

Background

The Distinguished Teaching Professorship recognizes and honors
mastery of teaching. For individuals to be recognized as a SUNY Distinguished
Teaching Professor, candidates must have demonstrated consistently superior
mastery of teaching; outstanding service to students and commitment to their
ongoing intellectual growth, scholarship and professional development; and
adherence to rigorous academic standards and requirements.

Further, to be eligible for nomination, a faculty member must have attained
and held the rank of full professor for five years, have completed at least three
years of full-time teaching on the nominating campus, and must have regularly
carried a full-time teaching load as defined by the campus at the undergraduate,
graduate, or professional level.

The accomplishments of the Distinguished Teaching Professor candidates
are set forth below:

Professor Jill K. Singer – Dr. Singer, a professor in the Department of
Earth Sciences and Science Education at Buffalo State College, has long
believed that opportunities to participate in research during the
undergraduate experience were essential to the success of her students.
Dr. Singer established and directed Buffalo State’s Office of
Undergraduate Research, developed a student research conference, and
the Undergraduate Summer Research Program. She undertook a multi-
year effort aimed at developing and field-testing a methodology for
measuring student learning and related student outcomes for the summer
program known as EvaluateUR. This evaluation methodology, developed
with input from faculty across disciplines, focuses on 11 student outcomes
to better inform program impact and ultimately, refinement. The National
Science Foundation (NSF) funded the scaling of EvaluateUR to the
national level, modifying it for use in a broad range of undergraduate
research experiences. The NSF and United States Environmental
Protection Agency support Dr. Singer’s applied sedimentology research
program that involves undergraduate research. Dr. Singer has published
100 abstracts, 20 peer-reviewed papers, and several reports. Dr. Singer is
a Fellow of the Geological Society of America. She served as a program
officer in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the NSF and as
President of the Council on Undergraduate Research.
**Professor Margaret J. Tally** – Dr. Tally, a professor in the School for Graduate Studies and a faculty member at Empire State College (ESC), has received several major awards, including a 2018 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and a 2002 Empire State College Susan H. Turben Award for Excellence in scholarship, the college’s highest scholarship award. Dr. Tally’s work with ESC’s Corporate College partnership with Verizon employees helps first-generation college students succeed in higher education. Many of the program’s graduates have advanced to graduate school or to higher-level management positions. Dr. Tally brought state and national awareness to the pedagogy of teaching with special populations of inner-city working adult students. Dr. Tally has written or edited four books, contributed chapters to 18 additional books, published a refereed journal article, and made over 30 presentations at national and international conferences. She’s also led new program development, served extensively in college governance, and assumed many faculty leadership roles.

**Professor Michael Jabot** – Dr. Jabot, a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at SUNY Fredonia, has made outstanding contributions in teaching, research, and service. Dr. Jabot’s caring and engaging classroom environment has fostered valuable relationships and mentorships with students, who consistently report that his passion for science education is infectious. His leadership in helping to integrate science programs into Fredonia’s School of Education was highly regarded by his colleagues. He has worked tirelessly to provide science professional development for the state’s elementary and middle school teachers, work consistently supported by coveted competitive funds from the Title II B – Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) program. He has served on the statewide science steering committee and on the science learning standards development committee, where he played an instrumental role. He is a Subject Area Representative for the Science Teachers Association of New York State; an Elementary, Intermediate Level and Physics Science Assessment Liaison for the New York State Department of Education; and an Executive Board member for the New York State Chapter of the American Association of Physics Teachers. Dr. Jabot’s regional and national contributions to science education are reflected in his superb research output of over 50 scholarly publications, more than a dozen grants, numerous presentations at professional conferences and awards. He has served on advisory committees, centers, councils, conservancies, foundations, institutes, and working groups.

**Professor Harry Howe** – Dr. Howe, a professor in the School of Business at SUNY Geneseo, creates a highly interactive classroom setting where students develop essential proficiencies for their future profession. His student-centered pedagogical approach, constant improvement of student outcomes, and extensive student support and mentorship have fostered beneficial relationships with alumni, who support students through guest lectures, networking events, and internships. As an engaged scholar, he has authored several books, textbooks, book chapters, and over a dozen
journal articles as well as given American Accounting Association presentations on teaching methods. Dr. Howe serves as a paradigmatic representation of the transformative nature of the Liberal Arts. In 2011, Dr. Howe was inducted into the Northeast Region American Accounting Association Hall of Fame, and in 2017, he received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Professor John Rocco – Dr. Rocco, a professor in the Department of Humanities at SUNY Maritime College, has been a transformative pedagogical force, elevating faculty practice and helping to advance the College’s strategic plan. He received the 2006 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the 2018 SUNY Maritime Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Rocco is the recipient of two Innovative Instruction Technology Grants (IITG) to build a Digital Scholarship (DS) Lab in the Stephen B. Luce Library and to create DS Teaching Cohorts across disciplines. As Faculty Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and Director of the Digital Scholarship Center at Maritime College, Dr. Rocco built the Maritime and Naval Studies (MNST) Master’s program as well as sponsored digital scholarship and assessment workshops. As Coordinator of MNST, he has mentored and advised every student, tripled the program size, and developed a Deck License program that allows students to attain Coast Guard certification.

A copy of the nominating letter from the campus president is attached. The complete dossier is available in the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor.

Attachments
August 26, 2019

Tod A. Laursen, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost
Office of Academic Affairs, Room S5525
SUNY System Administration
State University Plaza, 353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Provost Laursen,

Please accept this submission as my enthusiastic nomination of Jill Singer for the rank of SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. To be conferred to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor, faculty must achieve outstanding teaching mastery over multiple years. Dr. Singer is a distinguished, remarkable and nationally known teacher-scholar and her record of leadership on campus and at national levels should be recognized and celebrated.

Dr. Singer received her Ph.D. in Geology from Rice University in 1987 and her post-graduate career began with Buffalo State Immediately thereafter. From 2001-2003, and again from 2007-2009, Dr. Singer served as Program Director for the National Science Foundation while on academic leave from Buffalo State through Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment. From 1986-1998, Dr. Singer held the ranks of assistant and associate professor here at Buffalo State College, then in 1998 she was promoted to the rank of full professor, after having served as the Earth Science and Science Education Department chair from 1993-1998. On the Buffalo State Campus, she uses a variety of active pedagogies to engage her students, integrates real-world issues into her courses, and boosts environmental stewardship in her students. She is an outstanding teacher and mentor to students within and outside her disciplines.

Additionally, Dr. Singer has served on the STEM Undergraduate and Research Steering committee, as a Research Foundation Presidential Fellow and for more than 20 years, as Director for the Office of Undergraduate Research, the office which she established. In this capacity, she initiated the student research conference and summer research program and introduced a method for evaluating the impact of undergraduate research, EvaluateUR. With funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), EvaluateUR has been scaled up to the national level and is now being modified for use in course-based undergraduate research experiences. Her reach as a teacher and mentor transcends our campus.

Dr. Singer’s research program in applied sedimentology, supported by the NSF and USEPA, involves undergraduates conducting research. Her scholarship includes more than 100 published abstracts, 20 peer reviewed papers, and several reports. At the national level, Dr. Singer has served as a program officer in the Division of Undergraduate Education at NSF and as President of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). Her national leadership promoting
undergraduate research was recognized by her selection as a fellow of CUR and her election as a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

Dr. Singer has included varied methodologies within her extensive field experience in diverse regions that range from sediment transport dynamics, mapping surveys and hydrodynamics of the Buffalo River, to Observations using geophysical techniques and a remotely operated vehicle in Seneca Lake, New York. While at Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, Dr. Singer studied the impact of the 1988 fires on ecology of the lake, water column sampling and sediment coring. Other field experience includes working with the United States Antarctic Research Program and the Rice University Marine Geology Program on the USCGC Glacier conducting Marine Geologic and Geophysical Surveys of the Continental Margin of Antarctica. These studies have often included students and always enriched her classes.

The amount of presentations, workshops and institutes Dr. Singer has presented at is just as impressive as her field experience. She has shared her expertise at invited talks on varied topics across the nation and continues to be considered an expert in her field by her peers who consistently turn to her to sit on panels, serve as a facilitator and conduct single and multiple day workshops.

Her research has been funded extensively by local and national foundations and she has served in the capacity of investigator for several important projects, for which she has received recognition from organizations such as the Geological Society of America as an Elected Fellow; Erie County Environmental Management Council, and the Council for Undergraduate Research. These opportunities have enhanced her teaching and mentorships with students.

Professor Singer is a well-respected teacher-scholar. A few of our campus colleagues have described Jill’s contributions in these ways:

- “In her own classroom, Dr. Singer’s instruction is that of a teaching geoscience scholar with considerable expertise in cutting edge discipline based pedagogical research. Her classes are student-centered and demanding; participants are required to think and communicate clearly... refining their thoughts via discourse and writing assignments.”
  ~ Dr. Daniel MacIsaac, Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences and Science Education.

- “The Contributions that Dr. Jill Singer has made to the scientific community and to the students and faculty of Buffalo State, are truly worthy of recognition.”
  ~ Dr. James Mayrose, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
• "...Her accomplishments within her discipline are outstanding as I'm sure will be noted in her field. So often in professional nomination processes like this, the candidate's measurable impact is duly noted, but we don't always have the opportunity to surface the ways the candidate impacts the spirit of the workplace or the people they work with. I hope my sentiments can make tangible the difficult to measure impacts Professor Singer has had on our students, faculty, staff, and her colleagues, like myself."

~ Drew Kahn, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Founding Director, Anne Frank Project, SUNY Buffalo State.

Professor Singer's vita is replete of examples that speak to her outstanding teaching, expertise, scholastic achievements and breadth of service. Her commitment to her field, her students and Buffalo State College is evident as her service beyond the campus. It is clear that Dr. Singer is a committed educator focused on superb teaching, undergraduate research, investigation in her field and gaining the experience needed to craft her place as a leader both on campus and nationally.

By all accounts, Dr. Singer enhances and elevates the status of her department, her profession, Buffalo State College and SUNY with her teaching, scholarship and service. Students, faculty, national organizations and the field of geoscience benefit from her work. For all these reasons and more, I endorse Professor Singer’s nomination for rank of SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Katherine Conway-Turner, Ph.D.
President.
September 6, 2019

Tod Laursen, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
SUNY System Administration
State University Plaza
353 Broadway, Room 525
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Dr. Laursen:

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Margaret J. Tally for the State University of New York Distinguished Teaching Professorship. We at Empire State College are proud to recognize Dr. Tally for her distinguished teaching career, her willingness to broadly share her research and scholarship with colleagues and students, and her leadership beyond the institution related to teaching historically disadvantaged adult students.

Dr. Tally has won several major awards in excellence including the 2018 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 2002 Empire State College Susan H. Turben Award for Excellence in Scholarship, the college’s highest scholarship award. A highly respected teacher, mentor, and scholar, Dr. Tally’s academic career spans over 26 years in service to generations of students at Empire State College. Dr. Tally began her career teaching undergraduate courses at ESC in the social sciences field starting in 1993 with a special partnership ESC had with Verizon in New York City. Since becoming a full professor in 2007, she has worked with her colleagues in the School for Graduate Studies, Masters in Social and Public Policy department.

As you may already know, SUNY Empire State College is unique in the SUNY System in that our faculty are on 12-month contracts, teaching and mentoring the year round. Our mission to provide adult learners access to innovative, flexible and quality academic programs at our 34 locations across the state and online, help to strengthen our communities throughout New York State and beyond. Our unique mentoring model ensures students can build on their individual personal and professional goals to align and enrich their academic program. We are primarily an adult serving institution and meet the needs of our students where they are academically to help them succeed academically, professionally and personally. It is particularly noteworthy given ESC’s teaching expectations, that Dr. Tally dedicates considerable time to preparing her courses while supporting and mentoring her students, but also is a significant scholar in the social sciences and media analysis.

As noted in Provost Benke’s letter, one specific example is Dr. Tally’s work with ESC’s Corporate College partnership with Verizon employees. Many of these students were predominantly minority employees serving in lower-level customer service positions. Peggy and her teaching colleagues worked together to reach these students, many of whom were first-generation college students and unfamiliar with higher education. She engaged and mentored these students through the program and onto many successful outcomes, including advancing to graduate school and earning higher-level management positions within the company. As part of this work, she also worked extensively at the
state and national level bringing greater awareness to the pedagogy of teaching with special populations of inner-city working adult students.

Dr. Tally is able to bring general education studies in sociology and social sciences to life, intertwining her own research into women, gender, and the media in a highly effective manner. Some of the courses she has taught in both undergraduate and graduate classes are: Images of Women in Media; Media, Culture and Society; Women and Technology; Racial and Ethnic Relations in the U.S.; Sociological Theory; Ethics in Community Leadership and Social Policy; Cultural Values and Social Institutions; Domestic Violence and Social Policy; Race, Class and Gender in U.S. Policy and; the Sociology of Aging, to name but a few.

As evidenced in Dr. Tally's letters of support from students and alumni, she has a reputation for expecting her students to reach beyond their own expectations to meet Dr. Tally's even higher expectations of their performance. This is only possible because of her frequent and detailed feedback and one-on-one coaching. Almost equally as important, is Dr. Tally's dedication to understanding and supporting her students on a personal level.

Her dean noted that, "Despite the considerable time Dr. Tally dedicates to her teaching and supporting students, she has been consistent in her scholarly productivity and achievement." Since achieving full-professor status in 2007, Dr. Tally has written or edited four books, contributed chapters to 18 additional books, published a refereed journal article, and made 30 presentations at national or international conferences. It is commonly recognized that the diversity of her scholarship has helped to inform her teaching on social issues facing society today; exemplifying what a Distinguished Teaching Professor represents. Almost every year one of her advisees was chosen to be a graduation speaker. These students provided testament to how far Dr. Tally worked with them to reach their goals.

Her work mentoring and nurturing students and junior faculty – include those who have gone on to be Fulbright Scholars – is evidenced in her glowing letters of support from both colleagues and students and the multi-year student evaluations. Dr. Tally’s knowledge of sociologic and political theory spans the areas of media studies, gender, feminism, and gender in the workplace, highlighting the shifting roles of women through cultural expressions in a modern context.

It is with great enthusiasm that I join with Dr. Tally’s colleagues, alumni, students, our Dean of the School for Graduate Studies, our Provost, and on the recommendation of the Empire State College Distinguished Faculty Nomination Committee, to endorse Dr. Margaret J. Tally’s nomination for the State University of New York Distinguished Teaching Professorship.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Assistant to the Provost in the Office of Academic Affairs, Ms. Patrice DeCoster at pat.decoster@esc.edu or 518-580-2937.

Sincerely,

Jim Malatras
President
August 13, 2019

Dr. Tod A. Laursen
Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost
Room S-525
State University of New York System Administration
State University Plaza, 353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Dr. Laursen:

I support Dr. Virginia Horvath’s recommendation for the promotion of Dr. Michael Jabot, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. The campus recommendation submitted in February 2019 was based on a thorough review of his promotion dossier. Dr. Jabot also received the support of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Dean of the College of Education.

Dr. Jabot always receives high praise for the classes he teaches, but his approach to teaching goes far beyond the classroom. His ability to secure grants has allowed him to involve numerous students in research projects focused on real-life issues. At campus-wide student-research poster sessions, several of his students are always featured. In my interactions with these students, each uniformly describes how Dr. Jabot’s guidance and mentoring has improved their understanding of the discipline. He is well-known for giving generously of his time to assist students with their individual learning.

I would add that Dr. Jabot also has an excellent research and service record. His résumé lists over 50 scholarly publications, more than a dozen grants, and numerous presentations at professional conferences. He has served his department and the campus as a member of numerous committees, and since his arrival on campus, has provided exceptional benefit to the campus as the key faculty member providing linkage between our science programs and the School of Education.

As his previously submitted promotion dossier demonstrates, Dr. Jabot has a consistently outstanding record of teaching, plus major strengths in the areas of research and service. I wholeheartedly support his promotion to SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Hefner, Ph.D.
Interim President

DLH:ds/c
February 6, 2018

Dr. Tod A. Laursen
Senior Vice Chancellor
and Provost
Room S-525
State University of New York
System Administration
State University Plaza
353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246-2915

Dear Dr. Laursen:

SUNY Fredonia's Committee on Distinguished Professorships has recommended the promotion of Dr. Michael Jabot, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. This campus recommendation, based on a thorough review of his promotion dossier, has the support of Dr. Teresa Brown, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Christine Givner, Dean of the College of Education.

Dr. Jabot meets the criteria for this promotion, as shown in the enclosed curriculum vitae, letters from internal and external scholars, and letters from current and former students.

Six SUNY Fredonia colleagues attest to Professor Jabot's mastery of teaching:

- **Teresa Brown**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, notes the support for this promotion from colleagues and former students as well as by the Science Teachers of New York State and by the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York who recognized him twice for his excellence as educator as well as several SUNY and campus distinguished awards including the William T. Hagan Young Scholar Award and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and Creative Activities.

- **Christine Givner**, Dean of the College of Education, remarks about how well respected Dr. Jabot is by his students and colleagues because of his pedagogical competence, as he is considered "a leader in science education on campus, in the region, and at the state level."

- **Cynthia Smith**, Professor, College of Education, lauds Dr. Jabot's classroom practices as "creative, connected and ever evolving to meet the needs of the candidates he serves." She remarks about his recognition as an expert in science teaching and learning in the state of New York, "he has helped shape and facilitate the implementation of a progressive standards-based science education program", which she shares, "aligns with the many shifts in content and pedagogy in the area of P-12 science education."
• **Keary Howard**, Professor, Mathematics Education, praises Dr. Jabot's "willingness to embrace New York State mandates as an opportunity to make his program better for his students." He further applauds his work on SUNY's Fredonia Institute for Research on Science Teaching (IRST) which allows him to build professional relationship with local school districts.

• **Andrea Zevenbergen**, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Psychology, comments that, "Dr. Jabot provided a great deal of assistance to me... He has a great deal of experience with service-learning, having implemented it in his own classes as well as having previously served as the Director of the FACE Center at Fredonia."

• **Alberto Rey**, Distinguished Professor, Visual Arts and New Media, lauds Dr. Jabot's recognition by prestigious national institutions and academies, "his commitment to teaching and the quality of his instructional approach have been recognized nationally by NASA who has recruited him as one of their GPM Earth System Ambassadors and by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academies who have selected him as one of their faculties in their National Science Resource Center."

Four external writers highlight Professor Jabot's strengths as a teacher and his breadth of knowledge:

• **Ann Crotty**, Associate in Instructional Services at the Office of Curriculum and Instruction with The State Education Department, praises Professor Jabot's initiatives which "elevate the importance and impact of quality P-16 science education at the local, regional, and state levels for almost two decades."

• **Tony Murphy**, GLOBE Implementation Office Director at The GLOBE Program, attests to Dr. Jabot's involvement with GLOBE training workshops, "the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic representative [Jabot] serves on the GLOBE US Partner Forum...provides a platform for US partners...provides leadership to the community as well as gives feedback to NASA on the program."

• **David Henry**, Associate Professor of Elementary Education, Literacy and Educational Leadership, Buffalo State College, praises Dr. Jabot's connection with his students: "I work with many practicing teachers who are former students of his and I see them drawing on the lessons learned in his classes and going back to him for advice throughout their career."

• **Jennifer Bourgeault**, Country Coordinator, The GLOBE Program, describes Dr. Jabot as a learner and an integrator, "he is constantly adding to his knowledge base for the benefit of students and colleagues." She says "he then shares his own learning with others in a way that anyone can understand."

Current and former Fredonia students also praise Dr. Jabot's ability to elicit the best from those he teaches:

• **Traci Thompson**, Country of STEAM, Jamestown Public Schools, remarks, "He is a dynamic and powerful communicator who possesses the gift of being able to make complex subjects understandable. In spite of these formidable gifts, he is a humble and approachable person who loves to share his extensive knowledge with others, his students in particular."
• Robin Brown, Director of Instructional Support Services, Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, says that as her thesis advisor, Jabot "challenged me to develop a project that would not simply sit on a shelf. . . . He reminded me that my work was not just for completion of the program, but to better the lives of students." She reflects on these words often in her current profession.

• Courtney Smith, Graduate Assistant, Early Field Experiences Supervisor, states that on the Belize Service Learning trip she attended, Dr. Jabot "was always there to support students. . . . He was there to give advice and knowledge on which type of lessons were the most appropriate for the students we were teaching."

• Samantha Valvo remarks that Dr. Jabot "is keenly aware of his students and their specific needs. He takes the time to learn and understand his students as individuals. He was interested in staying up-to-date on his students' academic achievements. He was sure to celebrate accomplishments in his classroom such as passing teacher certification."

As the promotion dossier demonstrates, Dr. Jabot has a consistently outstanding record of teaching, leading to this nomination and my own support for promotion. I look forward to hearing from you and the Committee about this nomination.

Sincerely,

Virginia Schaefer Horvath
President

VSH:ds/c
August 29, 2019

Office of the Provost
Office of Academic Affairs, Room S525
System Administration
SUNY University Plaza, 353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Dear Selection Panel:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the campus selection committee’s recommendation of Dr. Harry Howe, Professor of Accounting, for the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor. I accordingly submit Dr. Howe’s nomination portfolio for your consideration.

Dr. Howe began his teaching career at Geneseo in 1995 and was promoted to full professor in 2008. During his two decades of service to the college, Dr. Howe has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate level courses in accounting and finance, as well as interdisciplinary and introductory courses for first-year students, humanities, and the Edgar Fellows honors program. In 2017, Dr. Howe was awarded the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Woven throughout the letters of recommendation submitted on Dr. Howe’s behalf, are suggested evidence of his skillful teaching:

- Breadth of courses taught;
- Contributions to published works including textbooks;
- American Accounting Association presentations on teaching methods;
- Commitment to continued improvement of course design and student learning outcomes;
- Student-centered pedagogical approach that includes case studies and real-world applications;
- Establishment of high expectations for student work and academic rigor coupled with adequate tools and advisement to support student success;
- Mentorship of, and connections with, students that extend well beyond their undergraduate years.

A former student, in reflecting upon the accounting and honors courses he took with Dr. Howe, shared that Howe, “prepared his students for the challenges they would face out in the real world after graduation.” Further, this alumna stated that an interdisciplinary course “displayed his teaching skills of engaging materials outside his core discipline; skills that I believe resonate very much to the core of a liberal arts education at Geneseo.”
A faculty colleague shared a similar sentiment in describing Dr. Howe as “an energetic and deeply engaged teacher who facilitates the production of his students’ very best work and who serves as a paradigmatic representation of the transformative nature of the Liberal Arts.”

Though I have not personally observed Dr. Howe’s teaching, those who have submitted endorsement letters on his behalf attest to his strengths and it is with their recommendation that I present his nomination for consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Denise A. Battles
September 12, 2019

Tod A. Laursen, PhD
Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor
The State University of New York
State University Plaza – Albany, New York 12246

Dear Dr. Laursen,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I recommend Professor John Rocco for the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor. He is an outstanding member of our teaching faculty who has both strengthened and transformed our overall educational mission. This academic honor would be a fitting recognition of Professor Rocco’s substantial accomplishments inside the classroom, as well as his elevation of the pedagogical standards and practices of his colleagues. His contributions have had a significant impact on advancing the College’s strategic plan, “Charting a New Course,” in the areas of achieving new heights of academic excellence, and empowering a Maritime College faculty for the future.

For over 20 years Dr. Rocco has been one of the most effective and popular professors at Maritime College. His undergraduate classes are always filled with long waiting lists: a noteworthy accomplishment for a Humanities professor at a college where one-third of the students are engineering majors, and 70% are pursuing a U.S. merchant mariner credential in addition to their academic degree. In 2006, Professor Rocco was awarded the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 2018, we acknowledged his considerable accomplishments in the classroom with the SUNY Maritime Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Professor Rocco’s exemplary undergraduate teaching is complimented by his extraordinary work in our Master’s degree program in Maritime and Naval Studies (MNST). Since its inception five years ago, he has developed courses, taught each semester, advised students, overseen assessment activities, and coordinated all capstone and thesis projects. Dr. Rocco has been the Coordinator of MNST for the last four years. Under his guidance the program has tripled in size. In 2018, Professor Rocco orchestrated the development of a Deck License program for MNST that enables MNST students to attain Coast Guard certification to become professional mariners. This not only strengthens MNST, but it also uplifts and enriches our professional studies programs as a whole.

Professor Rocco’s accomplishments and contributions go beyond the Humanities Department and the MNST program. In 2017, he became the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and quickly transformed it into an invaluable faculty resource for assessment and the development of digital scholarship training and practice. In support of the Center’s digital scholarship initiatives, Dr. Rocco was awarded two SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grants (IITGs). These IITGs have fostered and expanded digital scholarship across the disciplines and helped establish a state-of-the-art lab and Digital Scholarship Center of Excellence. In recognition of his dedicated efforts, Professor Rocco was recently named the Center’s founding director.
In summary, based on his accomplishments in the field of teaching, I believe that Professor Rocco's is most deserving of the SUNY Faculty Rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor.

Sincerely,

Michael Alfultis
RADM Michael Alfultis, USMS, Ph.D.
President