

Chairperson Paul Besaw

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To Professor Besaw,

It is my absolute privilege to recommend Professor David Feurzeig's promotion to the ranks of Full Professorship. As a recent alumnus, I feel especially qualified to give credence to his commitment to students, his talent and excellence within his field, and, perhaps most importantly, his advocacy.

Professor Feurzeig was not my primary advisor at UVM, but it was his patient guidance and matter-of-fact wisdom that kept me on pace to graduate. When I experienced a crediting error in my CATS audit that left me with 18 credits redacted a few months from my graduation, it was Professor Feurzeig who reassured me, not my primary advisor. Professor Feurzeig had realized the nature of the error, and set me on a course to fix it. He pointed out that music majors were not limited in the number of credits they took within the music department, unlike other majors. Had it not been for Professor Feurzeig, I very well may have had to enroll in another semester because of a computer error.

This example really speaks to the incredibly generous amount of time Professor Feurzeig invests in his student's lives. During a spring semester composition course with Professor Feurzeig, he once stayed in the music building rehearsing on a student's project until 10:30pm during a point in the semester when he was undoubtedly already overstretched and overbooked.

Professor Feurzeig's compositions, at some level, should speak for themselves. His intrepid and daring takes on Stravinsky rocked the world of rag and ragtime. He continuously publishes soulful and introspective new works including vulnerably intimate solo, unaccompanied works for cello and viola. Players want to interpret the compositions of David Feurzeig, and that is a rare feat in and of itself in today's musical landscape.

The last thing I want to touch on in this letter is Professor Feurzeig's advocacy. His sense of service and commitment to community is an indelible part of his personality. He proudly wears an ally pin and has been known to fly the colors of pride outside of his office door. For these reasons, he is a known ally for LGBTQ music students at UVM. Behind the currents of classes, homework and exams, students notice and appreciate those values.

Promoting Professor Feurzeig to Full Professor is not only an investment in him and his talent, it is also an investment in any future music student lucky enough to study with him. His talent, professionalism, generosity, and empathy are guiding lights and sources of inspiration for his students and fellow learners.

Many Thanks,

David Oliveira