

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Wendy Bolton McMillian | Wendy.mcmillian@ua.edu

April 14, 2020

Dear Tenure and Promotion Committee:

I am very pleased to write this letter of support for Allison Hetzel as part of her application for Full Professor at The University of Alabama, College of Arts & Sciences in the Department of Theatre and Dance. I have worked with Allison in her role as Associate Professor and Undergraduate Director in the Department of Theatre and Dance for more than ten years and have seen her take on more responsibilities as she has continued to grow in her work at the University. Her creative approach to serving her students, colleagues, and her department while reaching out to campus partners to improve processes in advising and teaching is an example of how she continues to grow professionally and in her relationships at UA at every level.

Allison has been diligent in staying informed about changes in curriculum at the departmental, college, and university level to ensure that her students are taking the correct requirements for degree completion. It has also been important to her to be a strong campus partner and create initiatives in advising for her students and department. Several years ago, the Theatre Department was overwhelmed with making sure all major students were being seen in a timely manner for course registration advising and graduation goals while still serving students every day in classes and in day-to-day advising situations as faculty members. As Undergraduate Director for Theatre, Allison was proactive in creating a partnership with the faculty advisors in the department and professional advisors in the A&S Student Services Center. This initiative offered a resource through the department in which students would be able to see their faculty advisor concerning their major requirements and departmental resources in the same visit that they could speak with a college advisor concerning any bigger picture graduation questions. This initiative has grown over the last several years. Not all students and faculty advisors choose to participate in these sessions, but this has offered theatre students an alternative advising and graduation check session and faculty advisors time to see a greater number of students in a more consistent flow. Those who have participated find it very helpful and Allison continues to build on this program through relationships with students, colleagues, and A&S College partners. She also continues to find ways that course registration and advising in her department can be more accessible for students and manageable for her colleagues by offering a variety of meeting structures.

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I have frequently had the opportunity to see Allison in her work with students. Allison is always available to students, giving of her time beyond a schedule. She is thorough and accurate when following University degree requirements and policy, while also guiding students to build their degree around their individual interests and strengths. She is also mindful to discuss the need for practical experience outside of the classroom with students. Allison always points her students to opportunities to build on their college experience by combining the academic requirements with performance, research, and study abroad. Furthermore, she focuses on developing the whole student which is one reason students value her advice and direction.

Allison has poured time and energy into ensuring that her students have the best advising and mentoring possible while maintaining professional excellence in her own writing and performing. Her commitment to students both in and beyond the classroom and her example of professional accomplishment is an asset to the Theatre Department, the College of Arts & Sciences, and to The University of Alabama. I am honored to offer my support for Allison Hetzel for Full Professor without reservation. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or by email at Wendy.mcmillian@ua.edu

Sincerely,

Wendy Bolton McMillian

Wendy Bolton McMillian
Registrar, College of Arts & Sciences