



LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

June 18, 2018

To whom it may concern,

My name is John Daniel and I teach the trumpet at Lawrence University. I held previous tenured appointments at Penn State University and Abilene Christian University. I write this letter in fulfillment of my duty as an external reviewer of Assistant Professor Andrew Stetson's application for tenure and promotion. I believe I have thoroughly reviewed the submitted materials. I do not believe I have met Dr. Stetson. We have corresponded briefly a few times in recent years. I wrote a trumpet technique book that he likes to use with his students, so we have discussed that. He is a facebook "friend", so we are somewhat aware of one another's activities and interests. Last year he made use of a "Live Lip Cam" and did some sessions with his students live on facebook. I happened to be able to participate by asking the students to try this or that and see what turned up on the "Lip Cam." It was informative and a lot of fun.

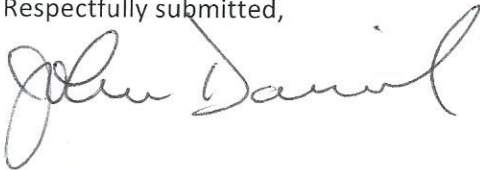
Regarding the area of service, Dr. Stetson is obviously capable and in great demand. I would hope he enjoys this type of activity, because he is doing a substantial amount. Truthfully, half as much would still be substantial. I don't know if recruiting is considered "service to the university", but I know that recruiting is one of many "black holes" an applied faculty member encounters in life, sucking up all available time and energy. I don't believe he mentioned it under service, but I'm sure it involves more than a few man hours per year on Dr. Stetson's part. His contributions in the area of service are impressive, both because he is being asked to do them and that he is able and willing.

Regarding the area of teaching, I have to try to put my observations in context. The accomplishments of Dr. Stetson's students in the National Trumpet Competition and a finalist in the Ellsworth Smith competition are no small achievements. Both competitions are fierce. Clearly, Dr. Stetson has a passion and talent for teaching. Frankly, I would have to watch him teach 2 or 3 lessons or a masterclass to get a clear idea of his teaching style and effectiveness. So my assessments are based on the candidate's statement regarding teaching, the submitted syllabi, and the videos of his students trumpet ensemble performances. (The student evaluations are a difficult aspect to include in a tenure review process, simply because as applied faculty we get a small sample. Nonetheless, Dr. Stetson is obviously a popular teacher with many students.) All teachers have to find a way to teach that fits their own personality and is effective. We can't be phonies. Clearly, Dr. Stetson likes to have fun when teaching, without a loss of effort or focus from the students. I think the syllabi provided are probably overly structured for a private lesson format, considering sometimes students need more embouchure work, etc. But that statement probably reveals more about me as a teacher than Dr. Stetson. My sense is, by having a syllabus in place that gives a great deal of structure, and having a studio environment in which students encourage and inspire one another, Dr. Stetson can afford to trust each student, relax, and enjoy each lesson. It seems to be working very well. Again, we all have to find a way to teach that honestly reflects our personality. My wife earned a Masters in Percussion from TTU while I was teaching

at Abilene Christian University. Both Gary Lewis and David Becker are good friends of mine. So I have a reasonable set of reference points for what would constitute "a good studio" at TTU. The videos of Holst and Shostakovich trumpet ensemble work are very revealing and are perhaps the strongest items in the application. These students are clearly engaged and excelling at what they do. They are playing with enthusiasm, confidence, musicianship, and control.

Regarding Dr. Stetson's creative and research contributions, I am impressed with the quality of playing. Dr. Stetson supplied several live recordings of substantially challenging music which he performed with confidence and aplomb. The recording of the Shchedrin "In the style of Albeniz" was a little less convincing than everything else submitted. Generally speaking, Dr. Stetson shows a clarity of tone, articulation, and intonation that is a clear indication of disciplined practice over a lifetime. I can't help but notice that all the solo repertoire submitted for review is 20th or 21st century music. Yes, we need to support living composers. Yes, we need to champion the best of what is being currently written in order to move the art form forward. I fully understand and support this artistic choice. I wish Dr. Stetson had provided a stronger statement about his life and goals as a creative artist, in support of this choice. That being said, I have no reason to believe there is any lack of ability or interest in performing music from 17th-19th centuries. In the recordings submitted, Dr. Stetson showed a full range of expression. His performances show musical passion as well as technical command, which transcend style period or genre. Good music making is good music making, and there is ample evidence in the document to make it easy to say the candidate is an excellent musician and an excellent trumpet player.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Daniel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

John Daniel

Assoc. Prof. of Trumpet

Lawrence University

Appleton, WI