Taft College

3/4/25

To the Members of the Emeritus Status Nomination Committee,

We are pleased to submit this letter of recommendation for Dr. John Eigenauer’s nomination for Emeritus Status at Taft College. As a professor of Philosophy and Computer Science, Dr. Eigenauer has made a lasting mark on our campus and community over his remarkable career, starting at Taft College in August 2001. His contributions to our campus have been profound, and his legacy is one that truly deserves to be honored with the prestigious title of Emeritus.

Dr. Eigenauer holds an impressive academic background, having earned a master’s degree in English, a master’s degree in Humanities, and a doctoral degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Syracuse University. His academic prowess, coupled with his passion for teaching, has made him a versatile educator, teaching across a wide range of subjects, including Philosophy, English, Mathematics, Computer Science, Physics, and Spanish. However, he is particularly known for his exceptional work in the field of Philosophy, especially his Critical Thinking and Introduction to Philosophy courses.

One of Dr. Eigenauer’s most enduring contributions to Taft College is his well-known Critical Thinking course, where he implemented the innovative and thought-provoking “Meteor Strikes” assignment. This assignment invited students to engage in critical reasoning by deciding who would be selected to rebuild humanity after an asteroid strike. What set this course apart, however, was Dr. Eigenauer’s practice of opening his classroom to faculty and administrators across campus, inviting them to evaluate students' critical thinking skills. This project not only elevated the quality of student learning but also fostered a more connected and supportive campus culture. Dr. Eigenauer’s efforts in this area exemplify his commitment to intellectual growth and the promotion of a campus-wide culture of thoughtful engagement.

In addition to his classroom teaching, Dr. Eigenauer founded the International Travel Scholarship at Taft College, providing invaluable opportunities for students to expand their global perspectives. His commitment to education extends beyond the classroom as well, with his numerous on-campus lectures, but also including recent talks delivered to the Taft and Arvin-Lamont Chambers of Commerce on beautification and critical thinking in the digital age. Dr. Eigenauer’s engagement with the broader community and his capacity to bring thoughtful discourse to important public issues further underscores his significant role in shaping the intellectual life of our campus.

Dr. Eigenauer’s academic contributions are also noteworthy. He was a speaker at the LogiCal-LA Conference in 2019, where he presented his talk “Isn't There an App For That? Why Irrationality Is Here To Stay.” His work has been widely published, with over 25 publications, reviews, and translations, many of which highlight the immense value he has brought to students, particularly through his critical thinking teachings. His articles, such as “Mindware: Critical Thinking in Everyday Life” (The Journal of Intelligence, 2024) and “To Teach or Not to Teach Critical Thinking” (Thinking Skills and Creativity), have been influential in shaping discourse on critical thinking and its application in education.

Moreover, Dr. Eigenauer’s passion for critical thinking extends internationally. He has participated in conferences in Paris, explaining the importance of critical thinking in educational contexts, and has been entrusted with the rare privilege of being a reader at the Huntington Museum in Pasadena, granting him access to invaluable reference materials. These international engagements further illustrate Dr. Eigenauer’s status as a leading figure in the field.

Throughout his tenure at Taft College, Dr. Eigenauer has been a beacon of intellectual curiosity, academic rigor, and community engagement. His impact on the students, faculty, and broader campus culture is immeasurable. His dedication to fostering critical thinking, encouraging academic growth, and contributing to the global academic community is exactly the type of legacy that makes him an exemplary candidate for Emeritus Status.

It is with the utmost confidence and enthusiasm that we recommend Dr. John Eigenauer for Emeritus Status at Taft College. His contributions to the college have been exceptional, and he has left a lasting imprint on our academic community.

Sincerely,

Adam Bledsoe Kanoe Bandy

Division Chair Division Chair

Business, Arts and Humanities Allied Health and Applied Technologies