

• *Math-Science Personnel Committee*

TO: Bruce Mattingly, Dean, Arts and Sciences  
FROM: Math-Science Personnel Committee  
DATE: April 1, 2019  
RE: Reappointment of Dr. Eric Edlund, Physics Department.

The Math-Science Personnel Committee consisting of Theresa Curtis (Biological Sciences), Christopher McRoberts (Geology), Frank Rossi (Chemistry) and Mary Gfeller (Mathematics) met on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> to consider the 2-year reappointment of Dr. Eric Edlund, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics. Members of the personnel committee discussed Dr. Edlund's accomplishments as documented in his reappointment folder in the areas of teaching, scholarly ability, and service. By secret ballot, the committee members voted on Dr. Edlund's reappointment and I am pleased to say that the outcome was **4-0 in favor of reappointment**. This is consistent with the recommendation of the Physics Personnel Committee and that of the Department Chair.

In the area of teaching, Dr. Edlund has demonstrated that he is highly reflective. In his first two semesters at Cortland, he faced a number of teaching challenges. These included poor preparation of the cohort of students who took PHY 203 in the spring of 2018 (as noted by Dr. Armstead) and pervasive cheating in PHY 420 during the fall of 2018. Dr. Smith notes that while the CTE scores in Dr. Edlund's courses "have been lower than the department would like to see in the long term" student feedback indicates that "meaningful improvements" occurred in the fall of 2018. We agree with Dr. Smith's assessment and find that Dr. Edlund is committed to improving his teaching. The committee encourages Dr. Edlund to continue to seek classroom observations, from both inside and outside of the Physics Department and looks forward to improved CTE scores in the coming semesters.

In the area of scholarly ability, Dr. Edlund is off to a strong start. Since coming to Cortland, he has had one paper accepted and has secured significant external funding from the Department of Energy as part of a collaboration with MIT. As importantly, he has already involved Cortland students in his research program. Last summer a Cortland student spent six weeks doing research with Dr. Edlund at the Max Planck Institute in Germany. In addition, Dr. Edlund's portfolio clearly outlines several new research avenues that he plans to pursue at Cortland. These projects are specifically designed to involve undergraduate researchers and result in publications. The committee commends Dr. Edlund for the early successes in his research program and looks forward to his continued development of a meaningful research program involving Cortland students.

In the area of service, Dr. Edlund is an exemplary early career member of the faculty who has contributed at both the department and campus level. His departmental service includes the personnel committee, the curriculum committee and a tenure track search committee. Dr. Edlund's service already extends beyond his department. He is a member of the Educational Policy Committee, the Dowd Gallery Director Search Committee and the Alumni/Undergraduate Science Symposium

Planning Committee. The committee commends Dr. Edlund for his significant service to both his department and the campus.

In summary, based on the evidence of strong contributions in teaching, scholarship, and service provided in his portfolio, we conclude that Dr. Edlund is a valuable and vital faculty member of the College and strongly recommend him for reappointment.

On behalf of the Math-Science Personnel Committee:



Theresa Curtis  
Committee Chair

*Committee Members*

Christopher McRoberts  
Frank Rossi  
Mary Gfeller

cc. Dr. Eric Edlund, Assistant Professor  
Dr. Douglas Armstead, Physics Personnel Committee Chair  
Dr. Brice Smith, Interim Chair, Physics