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To whom it may concern

On November 13th of 2019 I had the opportunity and the pleasure to observe, by invitation, a PHY 420 class taught by Dr. Eric Edlund. Entitled "Classical Mechanics," this is an upper level course offered to physics majors in their senior year and as such is highly dependent on the students' backgrounds in terms of the physics and mathematics classes they have taken earlier. As chair of the department I was aware that this particular group of students have had introductory physics classes a few years prior that were taught by an adjunct instructor who has not, at the time, emphasized sufficient rigor and as such these students had some weaknesses that Dr. Edlund was well aware of. Having observed the class I must point out that despite this handicap the students seem to be at approximately the level one would like them to be at this stage of their studies. This by itself is a major nod to Dr. Edlund's teaching abilities.

The class started on time. Dr. Edlund began by asking about the homework assignment that was due in a few days and asked if there were any quick questions they had about it. He then proceeded to summarize on the board the material that was covered in the previous class and outlined the plan for this one. The topic of the day was calculational techniques in the Lagrangian method. As such the plan was to spend the time going over some examples. Overall I thought Dr. Edlund ran this class quite well, he wrote everything clearly on the board, and posed questions to the students that emphasized the physical understanding of the mathematics. As such, interesting and delightful discussions ensued. With each problem Dr. Edlund allowed the students a few moments to construct the equations before embarking on the explanations himself. It seemed that the students were comfortable enough to interact with the rest of the class and contribute to the discussions. Every once in a while, Dr. Edlund used the technique of making intentional mistakes and asking the students to figure them out based on their understanding. Overall it was a delightful and engaging class. Dr. Edlund's mastery of the subject was clear and the points he was trying to make seemed to have reached their recipients.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Moataz H. Emam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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