

January 30, 2019

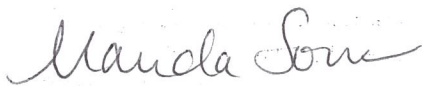
Dear Physics Department,

My first interaction with Eric Edlund was within the context of an academic dishonesty case. I was serving as the third party witness for a case involving a student in Professor Edlund's upper level physics class. This is certainly a challenging situation for any individual, and I would imagine is especially so for a new professor. Throughout the conversation, I was impressed with his calm approach and ability to focus on the learning and moral development occurring for the student instead of the specific behavior and outcomes for his specific course.

Throughout the conversation I witnessed between Professor Edlund and the student, I was impressed with his calm and patient focus on the student learning from the behavior. While others would be easily flustered by the student's emotional and adamant responses, Professor Edlund continually redirected the student and encouraged thoughtful, honest reflection and discourse. His responses and questions were poised, his manner direct and focused in presenting the facts surrounding the case. He continually provided the student opportunities to individually reflect on their actions and how those actions impacted themselves and others. At one point he even encouraged the student to step out of the room and talk with me privately in order to gather their thoughts, which I found to be very empathic and supportive. In the end, the student was provided with a fair outcome while having this opportunity to learn through their mistakes.

I was most impressed with Professor Edlund's focus on how the student could apply what they have learned from this ethical misstep to make better decisions in the future. To me this exemplifies his emphasis on student learning and development as he could have very easily made the entire discussion and decision solely focused on the specific grades in the course. While there was discussion about this, as there needed to be, the overall conversation was much more focused on student growth. I commend Professor Edlund's handling of this case and his interactions with this student.

Sincerely,



Marinda Souva  
Assistant Director for Transition Programs  
Advisement and Transition