
Emily Chau

200 Adams Street
Malden, MA 02148
(617) 818-1526
echau@massart.edu

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Promotions & Tenure Committee

MassArt
621 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Promotion & Tenure Committee,

I am writing to you regarding Fish McGill, who is applying for a promotion at MASSART. I've had the pleasure of working closely with Fish as he was both my professor and advisor for the entire duration of my career at MASSART as a student in Communication Design. During the pandemic, Fish generously recommended me to one of his former students where I interned remotely at their advertising agency. It was an experience that further cemented the career I wish to have now and in the future. Even as a postgraduate, Fish continues to advocate and support my creative endeavors.

Fish prioritizes the well-being of his students, fostering a collaborative environment where we can explore, share different perspectives and act upon our curiosities. He recognizes and highlights each individual student's niche(s) and challenges us to expand our limits. Encouraging us to nurture the skills that are unique to us and to approach a problem through multiple perspectives. Fish shares his personal interests and life experiences as a doodler, father, and once an undergraduate student at MASSART for his students as a means of fostering a deeper connection, building trust whilst demonstrating humility, and responsibility. Being a college freshman once, transitioning towards postgraduate, the future felt overwhelming and unknown. As my former advisor, Fish took the time to know my interests, strengths, weaknesses, goals, and made the effort to ensure that I have the right resources and connections in the future to achieve them. His approach and attitude as a faculty at MASSART demonstrates key skills that make him a successful leader.

Along with his colleagues and faculty within the Communication Design department, Fish takes agency when there is feedback among his students to improve the course curriculum in order to prepare us and future students for success. Especially with the pandemic changing the way education has always operated to remote and back to hybrid. Adjusting required patience, Fish along with other professors recognized that remote learning had disadvantages and so he

was flexible and accommodating to ensure that the students would still be able to achieve a similar level of engagement in his class. In consensus among the faculty in the Communication Design department, zoom fatigue was an issue with the overexposure of technology that comes with studying remotely; so Fish would prepare tasks and assignments that took us away from the screen (i.e. working in outdoor spaces, sketching or brainstorming on paper). Instead of spending 6 hours going through everyone's presentations, splitting into groups made it easier to consume and engage with each other's projects. These decisions were made possible through student feedback and through trial and error. Fish has demonstrated flexibility, professionalism, and empathy during these transitions towards his students.

I'm confident that Fish is ready to transition into a position with more responsibilities knowing that for the past 6 years he has committed himself as an Assistant Professor in Design at MASSART and generously extended himself beyond his duties to ensure the success of both his former, present, and future students. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me at echau@massart.edu or (617) 818-1526.

Sincerely,

Emily Chau