

25 April 2021

Dean Charles O'Connor
Hixson-Lied College of Fine & Performing Arts
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
102 WAB
Lincoln, NE 68588

Dear Dean O'Connor:

Upon the recommendation of her colleagues, who are unanimous in their support of reappointment, I am pleased to recommend Dr. Ashley Gilbert for a four-year reappointment as Assistant Professor of Practice beginning in August 2022 following the end of her contract in May 2022.

Teaching

Dr. Gilbert's teaching is lauded by students and colleagues. Dr. Gilbert approaches teaching in a systematic fashion as she strives to "stay ahead of current trends and developments in the field by being a lifelong learner and by effectively utilizing resources that best meet the needs of all students." She stays current with nationally recognized music teaching standards. She attended several professional development conferences in local, state, national and global conferences. She sought many peer reviews of teaching from her colleagues. Furthermore, she has participated in a on campus initiative that has partnered with Purdue University and the University of Arizona. Particularly notable is her teaching role as an online instructor for the all online Master of Music education program at Kent State University. If UNL decides to move to an all-online Master of Music Education degree, Dr. Gilbert can lead us through that transition.

I reiterate the importance of her work as the Coordinator of Music Field Experiences (COMFE) at the GKSOM. In addition to coordinating with the UNL College of Education, her responsibility involves placing 100+ music education majors **every semester** in the local school districts. Furthermore, she cultivates relationships with the local and state school districts with great aplomb. While the following are mere highlights to her work for UNL, it is clear why she was awarded the 2020 Nebraska Music Educator Association's Outstanding Music Educator award.

Several key points to her teaching since 2018 include the following:

Key Points During 2018-2021 Reappointment Cycle:

- Recipient of NMEA 2020 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year Award
- Teach UNL undergraduate music education courses (2018-present)
- Coordinator of Music Field Experiences (2018-present)
- Academic advisor for music education undergraduate students (2018-present)
- Admitted to UNL Peer Review of Teaching Project (2020-2021)
- Accepted to collaborative Creating Informed Learners in the Classroom Project with UNL, Purdue, and University of Arizona (2020-2021)

- Online instructor and Capstone advisor for Kent State University's Master of Music Education program (2015-present)
- Guest teacher in K-12 classrooms for Lincoln Public Schools (2020-present)
- Attended various professional development conferences (2018-present)

Research/Creative

Dr. Gilbert's creative work and academic research is very strong. She is presenting research on student anxiety and depression in various state, national (Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Virginia) and global (Greece) conferences. Dr. Gilbert is far surpassing her 10% research/creative work apportionment, which is more on par with a tenure-leading appointment. The following is a summarized list of her work since 2018:

- Two peer-reviewed articles published in academic journals
- Three peer-reviewed articles in-press in academic journals
- Thirteen refereed research sessions presented since 2018
- Four refereed practitioner sessions presented since 2018
- Eight grants awarded since 2018
- Perform regularly as a saxophonist with the Omaha Symphony (2009-present)

Service

Dr. Gilbert's work includes service to UNL, and to the local, and state communities. Her service as the advisor for the collegiate chapter of NAFME, as the COMFE, and on the GKSOM technology committee are commendable. This writer is particularly grateful for her work with the String Project, which is a collaboration between UNL and the Lincoln Public School system.

Furthermore, her work high school aged students with the Omaha Symphony and adjudicating honor bands are notable, as they serve as great recruiting opportunities for UNL students.

The following is a summary of highlights of her service work since 2018:

- Faculty advisor for UNL Collegiate National Association for Music Education chapter (C-NAfME) (2018-present)
- Serve on GKSOM Technology Committee (2018-present)
- Teach private saxophone lessons to area elementary--high school musicians (2009-present)
- Provided in-service workshop to music educators in Westside School District, Omaha (2019)
- Serve as music mentor with Omaha Symphony for area high school ensembles (2009-present)
- Perform on saxophone and vocals with Calvary Community Church worship team (2017-present)
- Various adjudicating and honor band conducting experiences

Dr. Gilbert's work is highly respected by students and faculty. Her work to the profession, to UNL, and to the community are invaluable, and we are fortunate to have her on faculty. I recommend her reappointment without reservation.

Kindly,



Sergio Ruiz
Professor and Director