

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees, Edmonds College

From: Mark Einfeld, MSc, Department Head, CIS, Business Division

Date: January 13, 2023

Subject: Recommendation for tenure for Allison Obourn

I would like to add my enthusiastic support to the committee's decision to recommend Allison Obourn receive tenure at Edmonds College. Allison is an excellent instructor and provides great talent and ideas to the Computer Science department. She will be an amazing asset to the college and help move the department forward in the years to come.

As a member Allison's ARC, I have interacted with her on many occasions. From meetings to classroom observations, I have seen Allison in different settings all the while during the pandemic. The last statement must not be overlooked. Allison began her time at Edmonds College as the pandemic began. She quickly adapted and adjusted to a new modicum of teaching and excelled. Allison is extremely caring and kind, and always ready to teach and serve our Edmonds College students. When I have observed her in class, she was always thoroughly prepared and taught with such passion and desire to see her students thrive and grow. She took the time to carefully confirm that her students were understanding the subject matter being taught. Additionally, while teaching online, she found ways to engage and involve each of her students. This is remarkable as students faced Zoom fatigue and dwindling focus in online class lecture. She often stayed with her students long after class ended to answer questions and provide support.

Allison has pioneered forward during her tenure track time and the pandemic even offering courses on campus and Zooming in those who wanted to do so, in a hyflex model prior to that learning mode truly being fleshed out and defined by the college. To me this shows her dedication to her students and willingness to take action and solve problems. She has also taught the introduction to programming course [CS 115] using Python, which is very relevant at this point of time in technology. This kind of forward thinking, to build upon current trends, and to teach our students this content is exactly what the college needs. This was further evidenced also when she designed a data analysis certificate for the department, which will serve the Edmonds College students for years to come and give them meaningful education and skills for job roles and positions that are growing as a result of the great information age we are living in.