

APPENDIX

4.6

January 26, 2002

Dr. John Gillis
Oregon State University
Department of Psychology
204C Moreland Hall
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-5303

Dear Dr. John Gillis:

With reference to Dr. Bob Uttl, a respected professor and mentor, I would like to voice my opinion and personal experience with him, in support of his tenure promotion.

I feel that I am qualified for two reasons. First, I have taken a psychology course with Professor Uttl and secondly I have worked in his lab as a research assistant for two terms. Based on my experience in his classroom and laboratory he has proven to be an excellent professor, counselor, and asset to this university.

Fall term of the 2001/2002 year at Oregon State University I enrolled in Professor Uttl's PSY 340 cognition course. The course was well organized, the lectures were interesting, and the information was presented in a way that was easy to follow.

To begin with Professor Uttl provided a detailed syllabus. It covered all the basics, from the grading technique to scheduled test dates. However, there was also additional information he went out of his way to bring to our attention. For example, on the fourth page was a list of all the resources available to students taking psychology courses. It included Professor Uttl's home page, list server information encouraging us to communicate amongst each other, and the computing facilities available to psychology students. Professor Uttl's homepage was a very useful resource. A few of the benefits were quick links to announcements, assignments, and practice exam questions. Additionally our grades were posted on the web-site, enabling us to check and monitor our progress. As a result, most questions pertaining to the class could be answered either in the syllabus or on Professor Uttl's web-site.

Also outlined in the syllabi were two options of answering weekly question/answer problems and/or giving a presentation based on a course related research article. The question/answer problems aided me in test preparation, and most importantly I was given an opportunity to make a conference style presentation in front of an audience. These options were very helpful and unique to his class.

He kept things flowing in the classroom with the use of overheads, biweekly tests, examples, and humor. The overheads integrated graphs, diagrams, quotes, and current technologies into the classroom. They were available to us on his web-site

and he encouraged us to use them. This proved to be highly beneficial. Reason being, that I was able to prepare for the lecture and formulate questions before hand, thus enabling me to better engage in active listening and providing more student-teacher interaction. Professor Uttl encouraged us to ask questions and he always answered them with enthusiasm and often-humorous examples. Furthermore, biweekly testing kept the presented material fresh in my mind, and in return I feel that I retained a lot more from this testing strategy. Many of his techniques would be useful in other courses as well.

Along with being a student I was also a worker in his Cognition Lab. Professor Uttl has taught me a lot about psychology and psychological research. He gave me an opportunity to run a two-hour battery testing subjects and encouraged me to learn how to do research in the library. We had weekly lab meetings and discussed a wide variety of topics, from the latest insights of psychology to GRE and scholarship information. Furthermore, at the meetings we discussed the requirements necessary for admission to graduate school (Lab experience, research experience, publishing papers, etc.). He informed us of scholarships and guided us with statistical comprehension. He truly shows a passion for his work. I feel that Professor Uttl is a valuable and helpful mentor. He has helped shape my understanding of psychology and given me valuable experience to aid my further endeavors.

Professor Uttl has been open with me and given me a chance to express myself and ask for advice. He makes himself available to discuss things even in the busiest of times. He is always there to give constructive criticism and trustworthy advice.

In conclusion, Professor Uttl is a valuable asset to the Oregon State University Psychology Department. He was a major contributor in receiving the grant for the Psychology Department's computer lab in Moreland Hall and is continually applying for grants to aid the under funded department. I give my full recommendation as a student and lab assistant to Professor Uttl's Tenure Promotion.

Sincerely,



Luke Deavers

Cc: Sabah Randhawa, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Rich Holdren, Vice Provost for Research
Bob Uttl, Assistant Professor of Psychology