

January 29, 2019

Re: Nomination of Patrick Howard for President's Award for Excellence in Research

Dear Research Committee members,

Please accept this letter as a wholeheartedly positive support for Dr. Patrick Howard's nomination for the President's Award for Excellence in Research. In discussing Patrick's nomination, I feel it is important to note his mentorship and support of graduate students and of myself. I joined CBU, prior to completing my doctoral defence in 2014 and his advice and guidance around the final stages of the research was important in the development of my own research agenda and growth as a researcher. I have observed him repeatedly mentor graduate students and new faculty with patience and grace. To me as a teacher, in an education department, though it is not easily quantifiable, this is one of the most important measures of the **impact** of his research and scholarly activity. Because of his recognized expertise in the area of education for sustainability he has been asked to participate as an external examiner for five graduate students from Canada and Norway. He has also accepted a large number (6) of graduate students within CBU's own Masters program since the program's inception in 2016. Though we tend to measure impact in terms of number of citations or journal indexing, in this case the students have presented another important measure.

Patrick, is also **recognized nationally** as one of the lead experts in the field of phenomenological research methods. Because of this he has been contracted to co-edit a book on phenomenology by Taylor & Francis Publishers. He has designed a research methods course which focuses on phenomenology and we have already engaged in conversations with Memorial University about sharing the course within their programs to allow students from both institutions to benefit from this rare opportunity to learn first hand from someone with his experience. I do not think that I am speaking out of turn to say that we as a department have felt very lucky to have his influence in our department because of the opportunities his recognition brings to us.

Finally, I had opportunity to observe a presentation from his Pan-Canadian research group, both the approach to research and the focus of the research question is based in **creativity**. Without re-iterating specifics from Patrick's CV, this project illustrates national collaboration with researchers from across the country, as well as direct practical impact of research because the project has spawned innovative teacher engagement in educational reform both in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. For all of these reasons, I think Patrick exemplifies the kind of research excellence that we should all aspire towards at CBU.

Kind regards,



Kathy Snow

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CBU Teaching and Learning Chair in Blended, Open and Online Learning (2017-2019)

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