



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

E A S T B A Y

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DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Dr. Joan Kask
Director of Admissions
University, of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA. 94720

February 15, 2016

Dear Dr. Kask,

I have been asked by Farid Younos to provide “evidence of teaching effectiveness” as part of his application for part-time teaching at your university. I will do so by sharing results of student evaluations for the course in my department that Dr. Younos has taught three times in the past two years: Anthropology 3580 (Middle East).

In Spring Quarter 2014, his overall mean score on 8 standard university questions was 1.15 on a scale where 1= excellent, 2 = good, 3= satisfactory and 4 = poor. As department chair, I place the highest value on #7 (Overall rating of the class) and #8 (Overall rating of the instructor). For these, Dr. Younos’ mean scores were 1.19 and 1.15, respectively. Student comments about the course point to his command of the material and ability to make it relevant to them. Among the comments that clearly point to his teaching effectiveness are these: “Eye-opening. Dr. Younos was a very passionate professor.” “Recommend to anyone. Opens your view of other cultures.” “I came away with exactly what I had been looking for; valuable course.” “Great course, with lots of information about the three monotheistic faiths.” “Very knowledgeable and entertaining.” “It was life-changing, educational, unforgettable, amazing.”

Dr. Younos taught ANTH 3580 again in summer 2014 to a general university audience and once more the student comments revealed a course well taught and much appreciated: “Anthropology of the Middle East was a very insightful class ...” “Great course if you want to further your understanding and knowledge of the Middle East culture.” “This course was a real eye-opener.”

This past Fall Quarter, Dr. Younos again taught ANTH 3580. Effective that term, the university’s course evaluations offered a new scale, with 4.0 now the highest and 1.0 the lowest. Younos’ mean score for 18 questions on the standardized form was 3.5, which matched the score for Anthropology’s so-called “global index.”

The numerical scores as well as the qualitative assessments by students in Dr. Younos’ classes indicate that he is an engaging lecturer who teaches with passion and commitment. He brings to the classroom a wealth of first-hand experiences that are augmented by a judicious use of films. The record is clear: Dr. Younos gets through to his students, they learn, and for that they are grateful. This to me is “teaching effectiveness.”

Sincerely,
David Larson
Professor and Chair
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