

January 27, 2017

Letter of Support for Randy Prus (for the Faculty Senate's Lifetime Achievement Award)

For eighteen years I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Randy Prus. He is a trusted colleague, a mentor, and a friend.

Dr. Prus is a thoughtful and original teacher, whose pedagogy is continually growing and expanding, being informed by his love and dedication to creative reading and writing, and his understanding of our region, our history, and our humanity. He cares deeply for his students, listens intently, and crafts his teaching to the individual. He draws from a wealth of personal experience and study to provide the high quality education our students deserve.

In over twenty-five years at Southeastern he has been the recipient of Faculty Senate Awards for Teaching, for Service, and for Scholarship/Research. This trifecta has been richly deserved, and he is most deserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

He continues to be an active scholar. A paper on Emerson and The Grateful Dead was recently accepted for presentation at a national pop culture conference. In 2015 he published his third book of poetry, *On the Cusp of Memory*, a beautiful and moving collection of sonnets—a masterpiece!

His work with student organizations, hosting poetry events, and serving as the longtime advisor for *Green Eggs and Hamlet* is deservedly legendary. He has served on the Faculty Senate (doing pioneering work on health insurance for faculty and staff), and serving, perhaps, on every university committee or council at one time or another. Currently he chairs the Academic Council and has been welcomed by President Burrage to serve on the Administrative Council.

For the last several years Dr. Prus has served as department chair for EHL. He is an exemplar of what a department chair should be. His *archeo-techno* leadership style draws its metaphoric inspiration from Phil Lesh, bass player for the Grateful Dead; providing the solid pulsing platform for the department to collaborate, improvise, and groove! At the same time, he does his homework: meticulously studying the numbers, analyzing data with insight, and scrupulously navigating policy with a sincere commitment to shared governance.

Randy Prus is a treasure who has enriched our university and our lives!

Sincerely,

William Fridley