December 19, 2006

The Merit Committee
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557

Dear Members of the Math/Stat Department Merit Committee:

Danelle Clarke has been a tremendous help in the coordination, curriculum development and assessment aspects of the Core Mathematics Program at UNR in 2006. She is coordinating two courses, maintaining moodle pages for the shared files, contributing to our assessment efforts by creating a report and presenting it at a conference, and helping with the alignment and revision of the terminal core mathematics courses MATH 120 and STAT 152.

Even before Danelle joined the Core Math group as a Coordinator, she helped Jerry revise the syllabus and schedule for MATH 120, helped create sample exams, met with Jerry and myself to discuss revisions in the content coverage and introduced a new textbook. Having taught this course at TMCC she helped me understand how the UNR 120 compares with theirs. With Chris Herald, Danelle will begin working on the course proposal for a new quantitative reasoning course.

Danelle participated in the Fall 2006 Mathematics/Statistics Orientation to discuss classroom issues. She related her experiences when she started teaching as a graduate student. She discussed student attitudes, classroom cheating, and how to deal with such things effectively. This was a very useful presentation for our graduate students and new faculty.

In Fall 2006 Danelle coordinated MATH 120 and STAT 152. I have attached her detailed report of the coordination activities.

Danelle has been creating and maintaining password protected webpages for coordinators and instructors using moodle an open-source system. She gave a moodle workshop at the Spring 2006 Orientation for new faculty and graduate students.

Danelle's proposal to discuss the coordination efforts from an assessment perspective is accepted for presentation at the Northern Nevada Assessment conference in February 2007.

Danelle has developed detailed learning outcomes for MATH 120 and STAT 152.

In addition she has helped me with several planning and coordination issues in Fall 2006. I understand that she has helped the Core Writing Director at UNR with the statistical analysis needed in their Assessment project.

I observed Danelle's MATH 120 on November 21, 2006. In addition to all the other exceptional qualities she has, she is also a wonderful teacher. The topic covered that day was exponential and logarithmic functions, which is considered fairly difficult material even in an algebra class. She used a variety of different tools including a graphing program on Firefox, gave several examples, had students work in groups solving problems. Students were engaged, class participation was great. They were responding well to Danelle's sense of humor and to her confident demeanor. In my opinion, for a quantitative reasoning course for non-quantitative majors, such as MATH 120, we could not ask for a teacher better than Danelle. I wish I had the opportunity to observe her in STAT 152 as well. I am certain that I would have enjoyed it just as much or more.

The detailed report written by Danelle at my request is attached to this letter. It explains her coordination activities in the Core Mathematics Program and her overall contribution to the mission of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,