INDIANA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR
UNIVERSITY REGIONAL AFFAIRS,
PLANNING, AND POLICY

December 26, 2010

Charles Bantz, Chancellor
Administration Building 104
355 Lansing Street
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)
Indianapolis IN 46202-2816

Re: Chancellor's Professorship for Dr. Ulla Connor

Dear Chancellor Bantz:

It may seem odd that a Professor of Economics was asked to write one of the internal letters for a Chancellor's Professorship on behalf of a Professor of English. It may indeed be odd but it is also strong evidence of Dr. Connor's interdisciplinary reach. Obviously, I am not qualified to address her research record. However, my many years of working with Dr. Connor, going back to when she came to IUPUI in 1984, do give me a sound basis for describing her service, her collegiality, her administrative skills, and even her teaching.

I have served on the advisory board of her research center, the Indiana Center for Intercultural Communications (ICIC), since it was founded in 1998. Dr. Connor asked me to serve because she was looking for budget advice. The ICIC is a complex center. It runs English as a Second Language (ESL) courses for local businesses, for foreign visitors, for the Medical School, while simultaneously seeking research grants and maintaining a high profile in applied linguistics research. My role morphed from giving budget advice into contributing to the ICIC's research by doing statistical analyses and being written into NIH grant proposals.

Dr. Connor has fostered research at IUPUI by mentoring junior faculty in English and Communications Studies. In her CV I counted five different IUPUI junior faculty members as co-authors and know of two additional recently hired junior faculty members who are collaborating with Dr. Connor on new research projects. Through these collaborations Dr. Connor has promoted the research standing of her entire school.

With respect to university service, her CV lists fifty-one university, campus, school, department, and center committees. What gets done in this service is much harder to document than counting the committees. Within our School and the campus Dr. Connor is well known as someone who finishes what she starts and does it on time. As an example that is not even listed on the CV, Executive Vice Chancellor Uday Sukhatme asked her to chair an exploratory committee for a Ph.D. in Health Communications or Health Discourse. Getting a Ph.D. started in a new interdisciplinary area in a period of tight resources will take consummate skills in negotiating turf issues and eliciting cooperation across the campus. She is one of the very few faculty members with the required skills and experience. She shepherded the first English MA through

University Place Conference Center 850 W. Michigan Street Suite 243 Indianapolis, IN 46202-5198 (317) 278-1611 fax (317) 274-5098

the approval process at a time when the Indiana Commission for Higher Education was unconvinced that there should be any non-professional graduate education at IUPUI.
I now work with the Indiana Higher Education Commission and represent all new Indiana University degree proposals at the Commission. One of the Ph.D. proposals I presented to ICHE for the Indiana University Bloomington campus was in Second Language Acquisition. Dr. Connor was an external reviewer for that proposal that the IU-B department had sought out. The IU-B department chair told me that as a leading scholar in their field Dr. Connor's advice and endorsement was crucial to the proposal.

In my opening paragraph I said I could even comment on Dr. Connor's teaching. One of the many ESL courses offered by the ICIC involved the Department of Economics while I was its chair. The students were mid-career government officials in China who were to be trained in both economics and English. I arranged for two faculty members in economics to offer specialized courses in international trade and in development and the officials proctored some of our regular economics classes. They also took English classes taught by ICIC staff and Dr. Connor. At the end of the program there was a ceremony for the presentation of completion certificates and an opportunity for the students to show off their newly acquired English language skills by making speeches. Student after student got up and said that Dr. Connor was the best teacher they had ever experienced. The two faculty members I had assigned from Economics were our best two instructors. They got polite thanks. It was humbling experience.

For me reading her CV is also a humbling experience. The Lilly Foundation grant to study communications between health professionals and diabetes patients and the Signature Center demonstrate how closely her research aligns with IUPUI's life sciences focus. The many new courses and guest lectureships she has prepared while running an outstanding research center while also advancing the campus through a myriad of committees is precisely the broad record of accomplishments the Chancellor's Professor was meant to recognize. I recommend a Chancellor's Professorship for Dr. Connor with complete confidence that she will fulfill the obligations of the Professorship and that she merits the award.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Sandy (NSH)

Robert Sandy
Assistant Vice President for Statewide Academic Relations, Indiana University
Professor of Economics, IUPUI