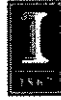


UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Speech Communication

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
244 Lincoln Hall
702 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801



August 23, 2007

Dr. Akihito Kamata
Chair
Department of Educational Psychology and Learning Systems
Florida State University
307 Stone Building
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4453

Dear Dr. Kamata:

This letter is in response to your request for an evaluation of Dr. Allan Jeong in relation to your promotion and tenure decision. I have not Dr. Jeong and we have not conducted any research or other professional activities together.

Dr. Jeong has compiled an impressive record. With twelve refereed journal articles since finishing his Ph.D, all but one first authored and several singly authored, he has exceeded the productivity level of newly tenured assistant professors in communication, information systems and educational and learning technology whom I am aware of. Most of the articles are published in top journals, as well. All things considered, Dr. Jeong is among the most productive at his level of experience.

The work is also innovative and of very high quality. The study of interaction—in this case argument and conversation—in computer mediated communication and learning situations is an important area that has received very little direct research, with the exception of some artificial argument mapping studies. After all, it is in interaction that the impacts on online communication manifest themselves. Dr. Jeong's studies follow the contours of natural arguments and map the unfolding of argument and response in a way that elucidates the give and take among participants and enables him to test for factors that might shape argument and its outcomes. Dr. Jeong builds a strong theoretical base for his research grounded on Bakhtin, Toulmin, and argumentation theory and supplements this with an innovative tool for gathering and mapping argumentation. Having participants preclassify arguments avoids the common error of presuming that the researcher knows the meaning of discourse and facilitates the gathering of large amounts of data. Dr. Jeong also employs an excellent set of analytical tools in Markov modeling and lag sequential analysis. These studies are by far the most substantive on argument in online contexts that I have seen and among the best interaction studies of online discourse that have appeared in the past decade. This is excellent research.

Dr. Jeong has achieved national prominence, as his appointment to two important editorial boards shows. He has been active in national conferences, recently organizing sessions. He has also shown great generosity by making his important tools for the analysis of interaction available freely as open source. All of these activities will enhance his stature and reflect positively on your university and department.

I am most impressed by Dr. Jeong's accomplishments. He ranks among the foremost scholars at his rank and experience. I think he is one of the best you could have in his position. The energy and dedication evident in his record suggest that he will continue to grow and to be productive.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Marshall Scott Poole
Professor

Senior Research Scientist, National Center for Supercomputing Applications