

Department Review Committee (DRC) Report

Evaluation and Recommendation Regarding Appointment, Reappointment, or Promotion of Career-line, Adjunct, and Visiting Faculty

Faculty member being evaluated Dr. Luke Dahn

Date of evaluation March 08, 2019

Members of DRC Committee preparing this Report Michael Chitinda & James Gardner

Category of faculty member being evaluated (check as many as apply):

- Career-line (Clinical Lecturer Research)
- Full-time, Long-serving Career-line (0.50+ FTE for 5+ consecutive/complete academic years)
- Adjunct (usually less than a 0.50 FTE contract)
- Visiting (any FTE, working in the Department/School on an interim basis)

Rank of faculty member being evaluated:

- Instructor
- Assistant Professor
- Associate Professor
- Professor

Type of Review

- Initial Appointment
- Reappointment for one year
- Reappointment for multiple years
- Reappointment for one year, with promotion
- Reappointment for multiple years, with promotion
- Five-Year Review with reappointment for one year
- Five-Year Review with reappointment for multiple years
- Five-Year Review with reappointment for one year, with promotion
- Five-Year Review with reappointment for multiple years, with promotion

Contents of the File (check all that apply)

(Refer to policy or Dean's Office document for list of required contents for each type of review):

- Letter of application or letter from Department Chair/School Director (initial appointments only)
- Two letters of recommendation (initial appointment only)
- Relevant contents of letter(s) of agreement for period under review, including workload responsibilities (but excluding confidential information such as salary)
- Personal Statement
- CV
- Student teaching evaluations since appointment or last reappointment review (for the previous five years for five-year reviews and promotion reviews)
- Syllabi for courses taught since appointment or since last reappointment review (representative sample of syllabi for courses taught in the previous five years sufficient for five-year reviews and promotion reviews)
- in-class peer reviews (five-year reviews and promotion reviews only)
- Two letters of review from outside the department/school (promotion only)
- Other _____

Recommendation:

Reappointment Reappointment with plan for improvement Non-reappointment

Recommendation regarding reappointment:

1 year 2 years 3 years 4 years 5 years

Written Comments: These should include a discussion of the particularly strong elements of the file, as well as any areas that might need attention from the candidate, the Department Chair/School Director, or the Department/School as a whole. The written comments should make clear how and why particular elements of the file support the recommendation. (Generally ½ to 1 page of written comments are sufficient.)

- see attached -

DRC Comments – Candidate Dahn

Dr. Luke Dahn has made a positive and substantive contribution to student experience both as a theory and composition instructor in the school of music. During his career here, he has taught the following courses: the entirety of the undergraduate music-theory sequence (Theory I – MUSC 1110, Theory II – MUSC 1120, Theory III – MUSC 2110, 20th-Century Styles & Techniques – MUSC 3550 & Form and Analysis – MUSC 3560), Baroque Counterpoint – MUSC 4560, Special Topics – MUSC 4565, the undergraduate composition seminar – MUSC 2570/71, private composition lessons as well as the Graduate Theory Review – MUSC 6500, a graduate post-tonal seminar – MUSC 6520. To have a visiting professor teach such a wide variety of classes is not only a testament to the breadth of Dahn's knowledge and expertise, but also speaks to a willingness to take on tasks that have greatly assisted the area and the school. Indeed, when our senior composer Dr. Morris Rosenzweig was on the brink of retirement last semester, Dahn was eager to chip in and teach private composition lessons, which greatly benefitted our students.

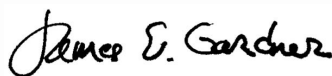
Moreover, the students have overwhelmingly reacted favorably to Dahn's pedagogy and classroom experience. The cumulative score he receives from students hover around 5.5, and the comments are effusive with praise. Here is one example: "This instructor is very good, being an effective, clear and informative lecturer, willing to meet and work with students, friendly, cares about what he teaches." There are, however, a couple of outliers. The first occurred in a section of 20th-Century Styles and Techniques that Dahn taught his first year here (2015), and I believe the responses have more to do with the course content than with the efficacy of his teaching. The second is an instance in which a student scored Dahn only 1s. As there were no comments left, it was unclear whether the student correctly understood the scale. Irrespective of these two exceptions, there is no doubt that Dahn has made an important and meaningful contribution to student experience at both the undergraduate and graduate level and in both theory and composition.

Next, while there is no expectation of research as a visiting assistant professor, Dahn continues his important work as a composer and Bach scholar. Some recent examples include *Giuoco Piano*, which was premiered by Viktor Valkov in January of 2019 – a composition inspired by Dahn's love of chess – and *Grey Behind Glass*, which was both commissioned and premiered by the Soli Chamber Ensemble in 2018. In addition, Dahn has self-published a new critical edition of the Bach chorales, and he presented on this research at an international conference in Lviv, Ukraine. Given the strength of Dahn's Bach scholarship, I am hopeful that this new critical edition will be printed by a traditional publisher.

Lastly, should there be an opportunity to reappoint Dr. Dahn in the fall, I can state unequivocally that he will continue to make an important contribution to student experience and to the school of music.



Michael Chikinda, Ph.D.
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James Gardner, DMA
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