

January 31, 2018

Dr. Stephen Kolison, Executive Vice President and Provost
Dr. Travis Miller, Dean, Shaheen College of Arts and Sciences

Dear Dr. Kolison and Dr. Miller,

On behalf of the Sociology Department, we are pleased to recommend our colleague, Dr. Phylis Lan Lin for the status of Emeritus faculty upon her retirement from the University in June 2018. Dr. Lin is the Associate Vice President for International Partnerships, Professor of Sociology, and the Director of Asian Programs at the University of Indianapolis. She has a long and distinguished career at the University of Indianapolis, which is rooted in the Sociology Department, but which has greatly expanded to include founding of the Phylis Lan Lin School of Social Work, creating the Office of Asian Programs, establishing the University of Indianapolis Press, and implementing international joint ventures. We are proud of the work that she has done within the Sociology Department and more broadly at the University. In addition to the many honors that she has received, Dr. Lin was recognized in November 2000 as one of the 33 most influential women in Indianapolis by the Indianapolis Business Journal. In 2014, Dr. Lin was an Honoree of the "Living Legends of Indiana's Chinese American Community," a gala event co-sponsored by the Indy Asian American Times and the Indiana Historical Society.¹

Dr. Lin began her teaching career at the University of Indianapolis in 1973 in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and she subsequently served as chair of the Department of Social Sciences from 1978 to 1985. In this multi-disciplinary department, the seeds of future programs were sown including social work, anthropology, and criminal justice. Always envisioning the next generation of programs, Dr. Lin co-founded the Graduate Applied Sociology Program and served as the Director of the Applied Sociology graduate program in the late 1990's for five years. Even when serving in administrative roles, Dr. Lin has remained a committed teacher taking on thesis projects and directed readings, offering undergraduate and graduate courses to enrich departmental offerings, and advising many international undergraduate and graduate students. Alumni remember her fondly as their favorite teacher.

Dr. Lin is a prolific scholar who has published both internationally and within the United States in scholarly journals. In her career, she has written and edited more than 30 books in Chinese and English.² Since 2011 to 2017 alone, her accomplishments include over 28 publications and keynote speeches that span a wide-range of professional and academic associations, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Lin's hallmark is to create venues that mentor her junior colleagues and that foster collaboration by sponsoring international events, conferences and symposia. In October 2011, she co-chaired and organized the National Conference on US-Saudi Arabia Relations held at the University of Indianapolis.³ She served as the organizer and co-chair of 16 International

Symposia, including the biennial International Symposium in Service-Learning where she consistently invites her university colleagues to contribute work alongside other national and international scholars. In 1990, Dr. Lin received a letter of congratulation from President George H. W. Bush for her efforts in organizing the International Symposium on China. Mayor William H. Hudnut III proclaimed July 26, 1991 as “Dr. Phylis Lan Lin Day” in Indianapolis and called on all citizens to join him in recognizing the important contributions that Dr. Lin had made toward strengthening the family unit all over the world through her efforts in organizing the First International Symposium on Families: East and West in 1991. Scholars from 16 nations around the globe attended the symposium.⁴ Among her well-known artistic events are the annual West meets East Concert series.

As a bridge builder, Dr. Lin has connected the University of Indianapolis to the world abroad, particularly Asia. In recognition of her bridge-building work, Dr. Lin was appointed by President Israel to the position of Presidential International Ambassador and by President Pitts to Associate Vice President for International Partnerships, a title which she retains at present. Under her leadership in these roles, two key academic partnerships were established as joint ventures: the University of Indianapolis—Ningbo Institute of Technology, Zhejiang University Joint Program in Ningbo, Zhejiang, China since 2004 and the Zhejiang Yuexiu Foreign Languages University—University of Indianapolis International College in January 2011 where she serves as Senior Vice President. In 2004, Dr. Lin took a major role in the establishment of the Au Ho-nien Museum on the campus of the University of Indianapolis.

Dr. Lin is also an ambassador to the wider Indianapolis community where she has served to enrich the cultural and artistic worlds by organizing and hosting unique programs. Her many contributions are recognized by this testimonial from Caterina Blitzer.

Recommendation for Emeritus Faculty status for Phylis Lan Lin, Ph.D., Department of Sociology,
University of Indianapolis

Caterina Cregor Blitzer, International Education Consultant

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“Intellectual Life – International Life” enriching both is how Professor Phylis Lan Lin defined the goal of the programs of the inaugural International Education Month at the University of Indianapolis, October 2017. It was a privilege for me to collaborate with Professor Lin and colleagues across the university to bring programs to campus that provided students opportunity to experience diverse perspectives and cultures. The *Cultural Competence: Return on Investment* Forum invited community and university leaders to share their beliefs and stories as they encouraged students to take every opportunity to broaden their education through international experiences and interaction with diverse cultures. Music is a universal language and the third West meets East Concert III featured University of Indianapolis faculty, local musicians and

visiting artists from China and New York. The audience enjoyed an eclectic program that included sing-alongs in Italian and Mandarin. The Mayor's Office recognized the inaugural International Education Month with a proclamation and a letter of welcome for visiting artist Carol Ng Yuet-Lau whose live painting demonstrations together with Dr. Gerburg Garmann fascinated students, faculty and community friends at the Art of Modern European Painting and Chinese Ink Brush Painting.

My collaboration with Professor Lin began in 1995 as I was tasked to recruit a diverse cadre of leaders to serve on the board and set a course of growth and service for the International Center of Indianapolis. Professor Lin led the International Center's engagement with the growing, increasingly diverse community of Asian citizens attracted to central Indiana for professional and academic opportunities. Thanks to Professor Lin, a number of collaborative cultural events, seminars and symposiums were held on campus, attracting diverse audiences from throughout the community. Professor Lin was a featured panelist at the first of a series of Creating Greater Awareness Forums presented by the International Center and the Central Indiana Community Foundation to promote cross cultural understanding. Professor Lin's scholarship in the field of sociology, passion for Asian arts and culture and leadership in international education, have brought local, national and international attention to her beloved university. Professor Lin's ability to respectfully engage, and fuse, diverse cultures and art forms, her emphasis on working toward cultural fluency, are the hallmarks of her leadership, on campus and in the community. All who have been her students, colleagues, and collaborators, in Indianapolis and around the world, benefit from her generous teaching, scholarly research and leading by example in successfully promoting international partnerships and understanding across cultures.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Dr. Lin and for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Amanda Miller, Ph.D., Chair, Sociology Department

Mary C. Moore, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Associate Vice President of Accreditation