



October 21, 2021

To Dr. Morris, Members of the Faculty Personnel Committee,

I am writing in reference to Gary Cuddington, Assistant Professor of Art, and Studio Arts Coordinator, at Hood College. I've known Gary for almost 10 years since he started working at Hood College.

During this time, Gary, and myself, along with instructors from other universities, have collaborated on several group, multi-discipline art installations at Hood College. HOME, our first collaboration, challenged students to come up with conceptual photographs and artwork pieces that reminded them of where they grew up or of the places, they grew up in. The second collaboration, titled Impossible Dreams, centered on creating works of art that break down the barriers of achieving our dreams, both great and small, personal, and social, community and global.

These collaborations are at the root of what motivates Gary as a visual instructor. His goals are to teach his students how to communicate in their own individual way, to allow them to express themselves as people and artist, and to advocate for them when they need institutional support.

When our building was going through renovations, Gary made sure that the new layout contained a 24/7 access studio space for students. He also helped advocate for a new, dedicated Macintosh Editing Lab for the photography, digital graphics, and all studio arts students. This lab, now one of two on our campus, allows our students to work on projects outside of class, explore digital options for their art and welcomes collaboration between students across different visual disciplines.

Looking to the future, Gary and I have already spoken about other collaborations that we can organize and have laid the groundwork for a podcast that focuses on interviewing various arts, offering advice to students about potential career paths and the melding of new and traditional visual techniques in the art field.

Having said all this, what I admire most about Gary is when I talk to his students about their experiences in his classes. All of them have only positives to say. They remark about how welcoming Gary is, how he spends time explaining techniques and how he dedicates time in class and out of class to help, gives advice freely and makes time to just listen.

As a fellow visual communicator, I always appreciate getting Gary's advice on a personal project or asking him how to approach a topic in my classes.

He is a great instructor, colleague, and friend.

Sincerely,

Timothy Jacobsen

Multi-Media Instructor, Coordinator of Hood College Broadcasting Studios