

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
Department of Biomedical Sciences

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July 20, 2020

Promotion and Tenure Committee:

As the Chair of the Curriculum Committee in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, I have observed Dr. Christianna Magee revise and enhance existing courses while developing new courses for the curriculum in the Department for several years. Because I am the Committee Chair and have directed a recent comprehensive review of the curriculum in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, I have been asked to review Dr. Magee's teaching for her Tenure and Promotion document.

An important mission of the Department of Biomedical Sciences is education in anatomical and physiological sciences for undergraduate, graduate and professional veterinary medical students. The Department of Biomedical Sciences has had an exemplary record of anatomy teaching for at least a half century. Faculty responsible for teaching anatomy in the Department of Biomedical Sciences have included a Distinguished University Teaching Scholar, and a national Norden Distinguished Teaching Awardee. This award is viewed as the most prestigious teaching award in veterinary medicine. Tiana Magee is a worthy colleague among these outstanding educators and promises to continue this legacy of exceptional and innovative teaching in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. She has demonstrated that she will take a leadership role in developing novel approaches to teaching undergraduate, graduate and professional veterinary medical students and will continue the Department's legacy of outstanding teaching far into the 21st century.

After becoming the coordinator for BMS 305 (Domestic Animal Gross Anatomy) in 2012, Tiana made innovative changes to the teaching of this course emphasizing comparative anatomy of canine, equine and bovine specimens. Through this comparative methodology, she expanded approaches to critical thinking and problem-based learning in anatomy teaching. She was instrumental in applying the use of the Virtual Canine Anatomy program to teaching undergraduates and has played an essential role in expanding to Virtual Equine Anatomy of the equine limb. Dr. Magee was recently awarded a USDA grant to generate a virtual program for bovine anatomy that will help promote communication between cattle producers and bovine veterinarians. This program will become a key component of a newly proposed undergraduate course in bovine anatomy. As such, it will serve both the undergraduate teaching mission of the Department and expand the Department's role in outreach. Recently, Dr. Magee has extended the availability of the virtual anatomy programs by establishing an enterprise that will offer the programs on a subscription basis to colleges and universities that teach animal anatomy. Money earned from these subscriptions will be used to expand the virtual programs to virtual reality where students and faculty who are working remotely and separately from one another can collaborate on teaching and learning animal anatomy. Dr. Magee's innovation in teaching is not confined to undergraduate courses. She coordinates BMS 531 (Domestic Animal Dissection) where graduate students dissect cadavers and prepare prosected specimens for students in BMS 305. This is a rigorous course where students learn animal anatomy through dissecting cadavers for themselves. Dr. Magee has played a central role in expanding this course beyond canine specimens to equine and bovine examples. As an illustration of how Dr. Magee guides students to use knowledge to solve novel problems, BMS 633 (Domestic Animal Case-Discussions) is a recitation that accompanies BMS 531. This case-based course uses clinical cases in veterinary medical to relate principles of function to anatomical features and encourages students to apply knowledge gained in the anatomy

laboratory to applying solutions to clinical problems. In the spring of 2020 when the University closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Magee made innovative changes to teaching animal gross anatomy by employing Zoom discussions in break out rooms to continue teaching a gross anatomy laboratory when students were unable to attend in person. She cleverly reimagined Zoom and combined it with the virtual anatomy programs to teach a laboratory course under challenging conditions.

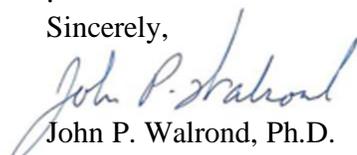
Dr. Magee's enthusiasm and dedication to teaching extends to the professional veterinary medical program where she coordinates VMS 618 (Veterinary Physiology and Histology). Teaching in this course helps satisfy her intellectual proclivity to link structure and function for veterinary medical students. She continues to play a role in VM 616 (Functional Anatomy) as a floor anatomist in the laboratory section of this course. Dr. Magee's excellence as a teacher in a broad range of courses has been instrumental in her leadership role in revamping and redirecting the future curriculum in veterinary medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Magee plays a central role in the animal anatomy concentration of the Professional Master's program in the Biomedical Sciences. She reviews the applications for the program and serves as the main adviser and mentor for the 14 to 16 students who are typically in the program each year. They look to her for academic, personal and professional guidance. As busy as she is, these students remain a priority to her, and she finds time to counsel and guide them through their graduate studies toward the next step in their budding careers. She uses her personal experiences in clinical veterinary medicine and academia to coach and urge them toward fulfilling professional and personal goals as she helps propel them toward various career choices. I am confident that many of these students recall their experiences in the master's program and their interactions with Dr. Magee where she urged them toward decisions which were pivotal in guiding them to successful and fulfilling lives and careers.

Anatomy teaching to undergraduate, graduate and professional veterinary medical students is a team effort. The team includes a variety of personalities with a range of agendas and insights. Dr. Magee has been masterful in applying tact and diplomacy in leading this group, especially under the difficult circumstances generated by the Covid-19 pandemic. She has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and managerial skills in guiding this group toward a common goal that is in the best interests of the students.

In addition to her heavy teaching load, Dr. Magee has taken a leadership role the development, innovation and promulgation of courses and novel pedagogical methods in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She serves as a faculty liaison between her colleagues in the Department and the College administration. This is an especially important role as the faculty reorganize courses to accommodate teaching, especially laboratory teaching, as classes resume under conditions of social distancing in a pandemic of a potentially lethal disease. She has been instrumental in the recent evaluation and revamping of the Professional Veterinary Medical curriculum, keeping faculty apprised of pending changes and helping faculty adapt to the changes. Her commitment to scholarship in pedagogy promises to lead to innovative changes in teaching and learning at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels. She is beginning a project to develop and employ a database that will help reduce redundancies and promote a kind of scaffolding for advancing students from their entrance in the Biomedical Sciences major through their graduation. This project has the potential to advance pedagogy in the biomedical sciences and enhance the learning experience of students in the Biomedical Sciences major. If Dr. Magee would choose to leave CSU, the university, college and department would be poorer for her loss.

Sincerely,



John P. Walrond, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor