



June 17, 1990

To Whom It May Concern:

During the last school year, Kevin Cassell has very capably filled a temporary position in our English faculty, successfully teaching an array of courses in composition, literature, and speech at various levels of the undergraduate curriculum. It is my pleasure to recommend this enthusiastic and earnest young teacher to you.

By his performance in the classroom and on committess, Kevin would have established himself as the leading candidate for the tenure-track position he temporarily filled were it not that he has yet to earn his doctorate and that he is an alumnus of this university. The doctorate is a goal well within his intellectual reach, and I hope that he will move in that direction so that another campus may profit from his sincere desire to understand and teach literature.

Around this campus, Kevin is held in high regard. Certainly, his service to this campus has been exemplary. Three years ago, when the Humanities Division needed a replacement for a member on emergency personal leave, the Humanities Chair asked Kevin if he would interrupt his graduate study at Northeastern and return to his alma mater. Without his aid, the division would have been unable to meet its obligations to the university. He was thrown into the water, and he swam. It was during this time that Kevin, a member of the search committee that brought me to this campus, first impressed me with his obvious enthusiasm for teaching--even in a trying circumstance--and with his love for UMFK. Upon completion of his Masters, Kevin was again asked to fill in, knowing that he would not be a candidate for the full-time position, in order to give the division time to conduct a proper search for the right person.

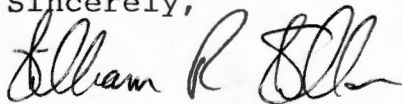
Although I have not observed Kevin in the classroom, I have talked with several of his students, a sufficient number to report that they generally find him a challenging classroom presence. They tell me that he is on-task, humorous, open, and direct. As a last minute replacement for him one morning, I found his students prepared for discussion and eager to speak about their understandings of the assignment (William Faulkner's "Barn Burning"), which speaks well of his ability to motivate them and to give them confidence in their ability to attempt answers.

As Kevin's colleague, I have enjoyed his company on numerous professional and social occasions. We have talked of various aspects of culture and our profession, ranging past current events, music, great books, literary theories, and classroom management strategies. His mind is active and cheerfully practical. Come next winter, I will miss those qualities.

I recommend Kevin most highly. If I may answer any specific questions you might have or otherwise be of assistance, please contact me at the above address or at my home (207) 834-5662.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Willan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Dr. William R. Willan  
Assistant Professor of English