



December 5, 2025

Dear Promotion and Tenure Committee,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for Suzanne Nielsen's promotion to the rank of Full Professor at Metro State University. Having worked closely with Suzanne over the years due to the fact that we share many of the same students (screenwriting and creative writing being sister arts), I can confidently attest to her exceptional qualifications, leadership, and contributions to the successes of our student body and to our institution as a whole. As I have witnessed, and our mutual students have oft marveled at, her passion and fervor for writing comes through in everything she does and is inspiring to everyone fortunate enough to cross paths with her—especially her students.

Suzanne's teaching is a model for demanding excellence and celebrating inclusivity, and she fulfills Criterion I—Demonstrated Ability to Teach Effectively—with distinction. Suzanne has a very transformative impact on her students—not only as a teacher of craft but as a mentor who nurtures their confidence and creativity. Suzanne's pedagogy is rooted in a deep respect for students' experiences and she is a master in developing students' voices in a way that empowers students to tell incredibly powerful stories from their unique, personal vantage points. Moreover, Suzanne does an incredible job helping student writers understand how best to find a home for their writing in the professional world, in life after graduation. Bringing in multiple guest speakers is one way Suzanne accomplishes this. Another, is providing hands on experience working in professional environments, be that the student-run Metropolitan paper or the Haute Dish editorial board.

Suzanne's classroom is a space where students feel safe to take creative risks, explore personal narratives, and engage with creative writing in meaningful ways. She is especially gifted at working with students from diverse backgrounds, and her inclusive approach ensures that every student feels understood, valued and heard. Suzanne's Creative Writing: Boot Camp course is a prime example of her dynamic and student-centered teaching.

Beyond the classroom, Suzanne's commitment to student success is evident in her administration of multiple in-program professional and collaborative opportunities for students and alumni of the Creative Writing program. Every year, Suzanne organizes the Carothers Writing Scholarship and the Haute Dish Public Readings. She works diligently behind the scenes to make these impactful events happen, and her advocacy has helped many students access financial support and recognition for their writing, often serving as a catalyst for their further academic and creative achievement.

Suzanne also spearheads Haute Dish, Metro State's award-winning student-run literary and arts magazine. Under her leadership, Haute Dish has become a vital outlet for student expression and a professional-grade publication that showcases the best of our university's creative talent. Suzanne mentors student editors, coordinates submissions, and fosters a collaborative editorial process that teaches students real-world publishing skills. Again, Suzanne does so much to provide Creative Writing students with professional opportunities. Just this year, Suzanne has created a "Write 70 poems in 70 days" Challenge... I force myself to stop here, I could go on and on, as Suzanne, goes on and on in the service of writing and Metro State University.

In sum, Suzanne Nielsen embodies all the qualities of an exemplary professor. Her leadership, dedication to teaching, artistic accomplishments, and commitment to program growth and innovation make her an ideal candidate for promotion to Full Professor.

I wholeheartedly recommend her for this well-deserved recognition.

Sincerely,

*Jeremy Bandow*

Associate Professor of Screenwriting

Metro State University