

January 7, 2026

Dear Promotion Committee,

It was in one of Suzanne Nielsen's courses that I first felt inspired to form a writers group. Suzanne consistently stressed the importance of disciplined practice and dedication to the craft, prompting me to consider what my writing life might look like after graduating from the Creative Writing program—when I would no longer be so deeply immersed in the minds and works of my professors and peers. This was the impetus for establishing a creative writing group (later named Get Lit) for current students and alumni, recognizing a clear need for continued accountability and connection among writers. When I proposed this idea to Suzanne, I was instantly met with her full support, as fostering meaningful engagement within the writing community has always been one of her favorite things to do, central to her mission.

Suzanne brings a deep and expansive bank of knowledge to Get Lit. She is widely considered by members—most of whom have also taken courses with her—as an expert in the craft, and her input is prized. Frankly, having a skilled member such as Suzanne involved since the group's inception lends Get Lit credibility and direction. She helps foster a workshopping environment that is both warm and rigorously honest, creating a safe space for writers to take creative risks. This kind yet firm and exacting approach demonstrates how vulnerability and growth can coexist—a balance essential for effective workshopping and genuine reception to critique.

Now in its eighth year, Get Lit remains an active and thriving writers' collective. Over time, this group's output has included numerous accomplished works, and even a published novel. Recently, Suzanne has remarked on my growth as the leader and facilitator of Get Lit. I think it's crucial to highlight, though, that said growth has been directly informed by years of observing and mimicking her coaching style, both as my professor of three courses at Metro State and as a fellow member of our writers group.

Finally, Suzanne serves the writing community not only through mentorship but by fully embodying the practices she teaches. Too often, individuals with extensive experience move

away from producing original work and focus solely on critiquing or editing the work of others. This has never been the case with Suzanne. She regularly shares her own writing during Get Lit meetings, inviting critique with humility. I also had the pleasure of attending a public reading celebrating the release of her most recent poetry collection, *Face Up: A Collection of Outlaw Poems*. Suzanne's continued creative practice lends authenticity to her guidance and allows her to relate to the struggles of new and seasoned writers alike. Writing is akin to breathing for her—and for our members, it is especially meaningful to receive feedback from someone so actively immersed in the craft.

As an alumna of Metro State, I can say without hesitation that Suzanne Nielsen is a pillar of the Creative Writing program and community. Her strictly voluntary yet passionate participation in Get Lit over many years reflects the same dedication and mentorship she brings to her classroom, and extends the impact of a Metro State education. This display of sustained leadership and involvement makes her exceptionally deserving of promotion.

Kind regards,

Farrah Al-Humayani

Founder & Leader, Get Lit Writers Group

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Farrah Al-Humayani".