



State University College at Cortland

P.O. Box 2000 Cortland, New York 13045

Office of the Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs

April 5, 1995

Jorge Luis Romeu
Associate Professor
Department of Mathematics

Dear Dr. Romeu:

As you requested I have read your letter to Dan Driscoll dated November 20, 1994. I do not have a perfect remembrance of your file but I agree with your statement that it was omitted: at least I have no recollection of having seen it before.

Having read your answer to the Department Personnel Committee I conclude it would not have changed my recommendation which did not favor promotion at this time. As I stated in my message to you, I believe you are on the right track for promotion but you have not yet arrived.

I will respond to several of the points in your letter to Chair Driscoll because you put them forward as important reasons in favor of your promotion.

First, I do not believe someone should be promoted with the major scholarly consideration being that he or she was a recipient of a Fulbright lectureship. Having served for several years on the Fulbright selection committee for Japanese professors I know Fulbright Awards constitute a major achievement and honor but they are not necessarily a demonstration of advanced scholarship. Indeed, they are often given to individuals in the hope that the experience will help enhance that person's scholarship. And, while they are extremely competitive to some countries they are less so to others. (1)

Second, I read Spanish (though no longer fluently) but it is very difficult to promote an individual on the basis of superior teaching in another country, culture, or institution. We can only

judge by our own experience here and we measure, in some sense, from departmental and college standards pertaining to good teaching. I would like to agree that there is something universal about good teaching, but as cultures are different, so are the standards for effective teaching. (2)

Do not be discouraged. You are making significant contributions and they are appreciated. Keep them up and promotion will surely follow.

Sincerely,

William F. Sharp

William F. Sharp
Provost

Notes:

(1) For his research & publications, this faculty has been elected Fellow of the Institute of Statisticians (U.K.) and chartered statistician Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society the highest ranks of both these institutions, among other professional distinctions

(2) It comes out clear, from the several Provost statements underlined, that he belittles (a) Mexican assignment as opposed to other countries (perhaps European?) and (b) considers Mexican culture and teaching standards inferior to that of other cultures.
This faculty cannot accept these assertions.

cc: Dr. Marilou Wright