



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

INTEGRATED STUDIES

16 September 2010

Letter in Support of Promotion for Chuck Allison

When Chuck ran for the presidency of the Faculty Senate against a long-time friend of mine, David Knowlton, I was sure that if Chuck won instead of David it would be disaster for our rapidly growing institution. How totally and utterly wrong I was.

I have been a member of the Faculty Senate at both Vanderbilt and Brigham Young Universities, and I have attended the UVSC/UVU Senate many times. None of the experiences can hold a candle to what I saw our Senate accomplish under Chuck's gifted leadership. I'll list a couple of examples to make clear why I was so thoroughly impressed.

Moving from college to university status put a heavy load on the Senate as it was required to update and in some cases completely revise a whole set of policies. There was a good dose of mistrust among senators, and one senator in particular who smelled a conspiracy in every move and did his utmost to disrupt the business of the senate as chair of a committee. I was astonished by the patience and respect Chuck exhibited when dealing with the disruptive senator. And I watched with awe as Chuck systematically used the rules of the senate to get the necessary work done. It was a combination of strength and respect the likes of which I have seldom seen.

As President of the UVU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, I had ongoing dealings with our Academic Vice Presidents on matters of academic freedom. It was frustrating to work with a couple of them who just weren't very clear on what that meant or why it was important. One day Chuck was asked to attend a meeting to which I too had been invited. One of the VP's, after quoting a definition he had found in a dictionary and claiming that in his mind it had nothing to do with the matter at hand, asked me to define academic freedom. I did so and explained why it was important for the current case. Chuck then pulled out the Red Book of the AAUP and put it on the table. He told the VP that it was a compilation of the AAUP's best thinking on academic freedom and due process and that the Senate had consulted it on every step for every policy it had worked on. He then gave as beautiful description of academic freedom and its place in the academy that I had ever heard.

Finally, I'd like to note that for years there has been a split between faculty members on campus, between business and trades faculty and those of us in the sciences and humanities. Almost single-handedly, Chuck Allison has put that split to rest. After his Senate

Presidency, we see ourselves, much more than before, as colleagues sharing the same concerns.

In short, I'm grateful to be Chuck Allison's colleague and will celebrate with him when he is promoted to the rank of Professor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Abbott", with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Scott Abbott

Director of the Program in Integrated Studies and Professor of Philosophy and Humanities