

HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423



Date: March 11, 1976
To: The Status Committee
From: Sheldon Wettack
Subject: Evaluation of Herb Dershem

Evaluations were not submitted on Herb Dershem since he is the only full-time member of the Computer Science Department. My evaluation is based on input from several sources, including a written summary evaluation by Elliot Tanis. It is my conclusion that Herb has attended to the chairmanship responsibilities quite adequately over the last year and has begun to initiate and direct thinking regarding the future of the department. A major problem which faces the department now is that of recruitment. Although Herb has not been as forceful in this area as he might be, he has been very open to suggestions regarding the recruitment and is carrying out the routine tasks of that process quite well.

It appears to me that there are times when Herb feels somewhat intimidated by the mathematics department and somewhat reluctant to act independently of that department. It is important for him to have a good ongoing relationship with mathematics, but, at the same time, I feel he should exercise leadership in the area of computer science without quite as much worry about what the math department thinks in the process.

Evaluation of Herb's teaching is quite high. Elliot Tanis feels that his teaching within the mathematics department is exceptional. Although his teaching in the past year has been entirely in computer science, I have no reason to question a similar evaluation. As a scholar Herb is very active in a variety of professional organizations particularly those dealing with computer science education. He is a member of the mathematics advisory committee for COMDUIT which is a consortium of computer centers that join together to study and evaluate the process of moving computer based curriculum materials between networks. This is a national organization and Herb is to be commended for his involvement with it. He is actively reviewing articles, has published himself in the past year, and is directing student research projects. He is clearly one of our more active mathematics/computer science staff members and, although he has not been active in seeking outside funding, I would have to rate his professional and scholarly activities as very close to excellent. In the area of service, Herb not only provides leadership for the computer science department, but he also has been a very active member of the mathematics department and seems quite willing to help others in the mathematics department with computer problems. I would rate Herb's overall contribution to the College as excellent. Further details regarding Herb's activities are contained in the attached memo.

Herb's chairmanship is probably average among those in the natural science division, but it should be kept in mind that it is difficult to measure in comparison to the other departments and that all chairmen are doing excellent jobs. The hiring and training of the new staff member will provide a good measure of his leadership. Computer science is one department which must interact with several other departments on campus (mathematics, physics and the social sciences) and hence another measure of Herb's leadership will be the degree to which the department becomes involved in interdepartmental programs.

Supporting Evidence for Herb Dershem

Professor as Instructor

1. Courses. Developed and taught two new courses: operations research and computer science applications of graph theory. Continued to receive high student evaluations in all classes.
2. Internship. Developed and implemented the internship in computer science. Two internships have been successfully completed and two more are now in progress.
3. Undergraduate Research. Supervised four undergraduate research projects: SNOBOL language processor, SORT package, random number generators, business systems analysis.

Professor as Scholar

1. Publications. "Computer Exercises for Elementary Statistics", Project COMPUTE, Dartmouth College (now under contract to McKay Publishing Company)
"A relationship between approximation theory and statistical measurement," Pi Mu Epsilon Journal, Spring, 1975.
2. CONDUIT. Served as a member of the mathematics national advisory committee. Reviewed and summarized reviews of three computer-based statistics packages. Have submitted my materials for review by CONDUIT. Co-author of "A Report on Mathematics and Computing: State of the Art, 1976."
3. Consulting. Consulted extensively with Thermotron Corporation on the development of an inventory application. Served as a short-term consultant for two other firms.

Professor as Counselor

1. ACM. Established a student chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery at Hope College. Chapter chartered by the national organization on December 22, 1975. Chapter has 15 members and has been active during the entire 1975-6 academic year.

Professor in Service to Department and College

1. High School Presentations. Gave talks at Unity Christian, Western Michigan Christian, and St. Augustine. Gave talks for the Physics-Math-Computer Science Symposium. Conducted mini-courses at Holland High School. Conducted sessions on computers for four groups from E.E. Fell Jr. High.
2. Alumni Relations. Sent a computer science newsletter to 60 alumni of Hope who are employed in the computer field. Received responses and offers of assistance from 14 of these.
3. Community Participation. Served as president of the Holland Social Progress Club, and Superintendent of the Sunday School at Zion Lutheran Church. Spoke to Kiwanis Club. Represented the college to local organizations in connection with consulting and internships.