



California Polytechnic State University
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Mechanical Engineering Department
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Dear Physics PRC Committee:

I am writing to highlight the collaborative work that Dr Pete Schwartz has done with me and with the Mechanical Engineering Department. As part of his sabbatical, Pete sat in on my ME212 Engineering Dynamics course. Physics 141 is a critical pre-requisite for this course, and Pete wanted to understand how we taught mechanics from a more engineering viewpoint. Often after class we would have very interesting conversations on pedagogical styles, ways to present different mechanics concepts, and differences between physics and engineering teaching practices. He has also shared his flipped materials with me, as well as a recent submission to the Physics Educator. It is my hope to eventually see if we could co-teach a Physics 141 section so I can better understand the incoming background of our ME212 students.

Pete also proved a valuable resource for my Research to Aid People with Disabilities NSF project. Our work centered on having senior project students design and build devices to help with adapted physical activities, and he was able to provide us contacts and advice on doing a project in Guatemala. Through his contacts, I was able to travel to several clinics in the country. After establishing these contacts, a senior design team developed and delivered a device to help children with mobility impairments exercise and move around in the clinic.

I commend Dr Schwartz for his willingness to reach across departmental and college lines to help improve student learning. I look forward to working with him in the future.

Please feel free to contact me through email (bself@calpoly.edu) or by phone (805-756-7993) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Self, Ph.D.
Professor of Mechanical Engineering