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# RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Department of Sociology

July 29, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Professor Dragan Gill for promotion and tenure. I have worked with Professor Gill since she first arrived on campus, both in her capacity as Department Liaison to the Department of Sociology, which I have chaired since 2016, and in various other capacities that speak to Professor Gill's deep engagement with service and scholarship across the Rhode Island College campus. Throughout my time working with Professor Gill, I have been impressed by her dedication, thoughtfulness, creativity, and commitment, and she is truly an asset to Adams Library, Rhode Island College, and the Rhode Island library and information services community as a whole.

Given my position in the Sociology Department, it is appropriate for me to comment first on Professor Gill's work with our department. Throughout her time as our Department Liaison, Professor Gill has been communicative, helpful, and responsive. She keeps us up-to-date on library acquisitions, policies, and procedures, and keeps web resources up-to-date for faculty and student research. In addition, she is magical at finding sources, and her work in this regard has definitely increased my own productivity. Rather than spending hours on wild goose chases, I can simply explain to Professor Gill what I am looking for, and with even the vaguest description, she is able to track it down. To give two examples: she was able to find an article I could not remember the title or author of, even after I told her the wrong publication, and she was able to find a report from over a decade ago when all I remembered was the topic and state of publication. This skill is profoundly helpful.

Professor Gill has also supported our department through her work in library instruction. She has served a variety of courses ranging in level from first-year to graduate, helping students learn information literacy and information retrieval skills appropriate to their level and discipline and thus supporting core learning outcomes of both the general education program and our majors. Her ability to work with students to further their skills beyond the classroom has been highly productive. And in Summer 2020 as Rhode Island College was in the process of building its fall remote learning plan, Professor Gill built an exceptional online tutorial, with short videos and embedded exercises, to help students in my fall courses (a 300-level Writing in the Disciplines and Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning course and a 500-level writing course for graduate students) develop disciplinary information search skills. I am deeply impressed with her speedy, thorough, and useful work in this regard. A final note on Professor Gill's instructional work—she has also presented as part of the Liberal Studies 150 course, doing an exceptional job of explaining core information literacy concepts to a multidisciplinary and multilevel audience of students.

Even more impressive than her already-impressive work in instruction and research support is her record of service across the campus and the community. This work has gone far to make Rhode Island College a better place, especially for our students, and Professor Gill's commitments in this regard are laudable. The most notable of these is her work with the Rhode Island Open Textbook Initiative, for which she has served as a committee chair/co-chair throughout her time as an assistant professor. In this work, she has helped Rhode Island College students—and other college

students across Rhode Island—save thousands of dollars in textbook and materials costs and introduced faculty to new and innovative ways of supporting students. The work of switching to, or developing, Open Educational Resources (OER) is considerable, and Professor Gill has made this much more feasible for faculty. I will note here that it is in large part her work that led me to begin developing, with a faculty colleague, an OER text for a 400-level major required course in my department, a resource that will enhance our teaching and save our students money over years to come. She has continued to provide valuable support as we have worked on this project, which we hope to have available in an initial version for Fall 2020 and in a complete version by some time in 2021.

But Professor Gill's work has extended far beyond this one area of engagement and expertise. She has done so much to improve the usability of the Adams Library website for student and faculty patrons. She has invested deeply in the work of student support, including leading the team to develop an Asset Map that continues to serve our students, and being a valuable source of information for students seeking resources and support across campus. More recently, I have served with Professor Gill on two important committees. First was the COVID-19 Online Planning Committee, where her contributions to ensuring that our COVID-19 plans for Fall 2020 supported students and ensured access to appropriate library resources and services were greatly appreciated. Second is a new and ongoing committee I co-chair, the Accessibility Task Force. This committee is designed to ensure that Rhode Island College becomes and remains a far more accessible, inclusive, and equitable place for both students and employees with disabilities, and Professor Gill's knowledge of relevant resources, services, and needs is exceptionally useful to our committee's work.

I did want to briefly remark upon Professor Gill's scholarly engagement. Her record of presentations, both on and off campus, is stellar, and her continuing engagement in professional development enables her to bring back useful ideas to support her—and our—work on campus. This level of engagement speaks to the likely trajectory of her future career.

It is clear to me, from my years of work with Professor Gill, that she will continue to be an asset to our community. She will continue her deep engagement in scholarship and professional development. She will continue to provide strong support to the teaching and research missions of academic departments across campus. And she will continue to be a profoundly valuable colleague in a variety of service and shared-governance capacities on and off campus. I recommend Professor Gill for tenure and promotion without reservation and will be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to continue to work with her for many years to come. Please contact me at [marthur@ric.edu](mailto:marthur@ric.edu) should you have any additional questions about Professor Gils's record or candidacy.

Sincerely,



Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur  
Chair and Professor of Sociology