

Date: March 7, 2019

To: Jay T. Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President

From: University Distinguished Professor Evaluation Committee, Thomas Hertel, Chair

Re: Nomination of Dean David Hummels for Distinguished Professor

I write on behalf of the committee you appointed to review the nomination of Dean David Hummels for Distinguished Professor of Economics at Purdue University. As requested, I served as chair of the committee that included Distinguished Professors Timothy Cason (Economics), Jayson Lusk (Agricultural Economics), J. Jill Sutor (Sociology) and George Shanthikumar (Management).

Our committee reviewed Professor Hummels curriculum vitae, the overview of his accomplishments, including research and teaching as well as broader impacts, provided by Justin Tobias (Professor and Head of Economics), ten letters from leading experts in the field of International Trade, and three letters from former students of Professor Hummels. The committee voted unanimously to support Professor Hummels' nomination as Distinguished Professor at Purdue University.

Based on this review, we conclude that Professor Hummels is an extremely influential scholar. His work has been published in top journals in economics, including three seminal papers in the *American Economic Review* and a dozen others in leading economics journals. This research is highly cited, and four of his papers have garnered more than 1,000 citations in Google Scholar. Based on a systematic review of citations by all economists, published by Ellison (2013), Professor Hummels was determined to rank second among all economists receiving their PhD between 1987 and 1995, after adjusting for field, age and school.

The ten external letters reflect the enormous respect which thought-leaders in the international trade community have for Professor Hummels. Dave Donaldson, winner of the 2017 John Bates Clark Medal, awarded to the most promising economist under the age of forty, notes: "David is extremely highly regarded in my field of International Trade. Time and time again he has produced research that is 5 – 10 years ahead of the rest of us." This includes his truly innovative analysis of 'time as a barrier to trade', his work on global value chains, his research on intra-national geography and its role in determining trade flows, as well as seminal contributions to the study of outsourcing.

Dean Hummels' research has been extremely influential outside of academia as well. He has consulted for the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the US Agency for International Development and the International Monetary Fund on issues of trade facilitation. As tariffs have been reduced, the main barriers to trade lie elsewhere, including the physical movement of goods as well as bureaucratic and other rules that restrict the free movement of merchandise across borders. Professor Hummels' work has drawn attention to the high cost of barriers that reduce the timeliness of international trade, and the large potential gains from reducing these barriers.

While his research and outreach has been extremely influential, Professor Hummels' teaching and mentorship are also noted as an important and lasting contribution. He is an award-winning teacher, having been recognized for teaching excellence at the Undergraduate, Graduate and MBA levels. He has chaired 16 PhD dissertation committees, and served on 13 other PhD committees, publishing with many of his advisees, and placing them well in the job market. The three letters which we solicited from former advisees highlight the effort and thought that he puts into his advising. Anca Cristea, Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Oregon, notes: "David has been an inspiring thesis advisor. My understanding and appreciation of his mentorship only grows with time. Having students of my own now, I constantly find myself trying to emulate his attitude and advice.... His invaluable advice has followed me in my teaching, research and student advising. I am forever grateful for his investment in me."

In light of our evaluation of his record and the comments offered by the external reviewers and former students, we conclude that Professor Hummels is an outstanding scholar and teacher whose accomplishments are worthy of recognition as Distinguished Professor at Purdue University.

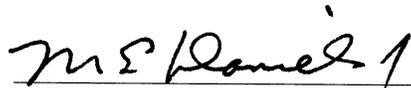
Approved:



Jay Akridge
Provost and Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Diversity

2/19/19

Date



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
President

5/6/19

Date