



College of Liberal Arts

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY®

Department of Psychology

Peter S. Amenta, MD, PhD
Dean, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Chair, Search Committee for VP of Academic Affairs
c/o Office of the Executive VP for Academic and Clinical Affairs
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey
65 Bergen Street, Suite 1441
PO Box 1709
Newark, NJ 07101-1709
Attention: Ms. Loretta Caldwell

vpaasearch@umdnj.edu

September 30, 2009

Dear Dr. Amenta:

I am very pleased and proud to write this letter of support for **Dr. David Feeney**. He has been an esteemed colleague at Temple University for over a decade. I have watched Dr. Feeney mature from a very bright individual with substantial technical and technological skills to a master of organizational change. The current economic crisis, compounded by the Pennsylvania legislature's refusal to pass a budget until last week created an impossible financial situation at the university that has resulted in well over 200 senior level positions being eliminated. Unfortunately, Dr. Feeney's position was among those abolished, due to no fault of his own. In one month's time he went from receiving a national award for his work to being laid off.

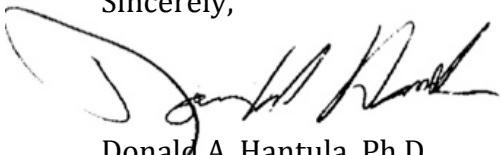
I first met Dr. Feeney over a decade ago when we were speaking on the same panel at an international conference. His perspective on technology, education, and its transformational potential impressed me, so much so that I later recruited him to Temple University to join the fledgling online learning program. During his tenure at Temple he has grown from a faculty consultant role to one of more strategic vision. He now sees technology not as a tool to accomplish certain tasks, but as a catalyst to transform the way an academic unit conceptualizes and realizes its mission. I have been continually amazed and impressed with the way he thinks through the systemic and cultural issues within the university. His work was critical to the sharp rise in ranking and reputation the Fox School of Business saw in the recent past. Indeed, the Fox School was recognized as one of the nation's most technologically innovative business schools based entirely on Dr. Feeney's accomplishments.

Dr. Feeney is a real visionary who always seems to be two or three steps ahead of the curve. His native intelligence, passion for his work, and dedication to the university have allowed him to persuade even the most ardent skeptics. This has been a major key to his success; gaining the cooperation and collaboration of people who would normally be apathetic, if not hostile to his endeavors.

A lay off is never pleasant, but for Dr. Feeney this turn of events represents a real opportunity for him. He has succeeded in every venture he has attempted at Temple University, and was beginning to outgrow his job. Because the university's current administrative model is to recruit from outside rather than promote from within, Dr. Feeney had little room to move up. He is clearly ready to take the next step into a higher level administrative position and has the skills and credibility to go with it. Dr. Feeney represents the university well to external constituencies. He is expert at arranging partnerships with outside interests that are mutually beneficial. He has showcased the Fox School's innovations to leaders of other universities and to federal agencies such as the CIA and US Naval Academy. Finally, he is regularly interviewed by local and national publications and serves as a very articulate example of our academic excellence. He also understands and appreciates a faculty perspective, having published in the scholarly literature and taught effectively in 3 different colleges at Temple University; I was happy to be able to recruit him as an instructor in the Department of Psychology this semester.

In closing, I recommend Dr. Feeney highly without reservation. He has been one of my most valued colleagues at Temple University and I will be very happy to see him succeed again in the next institution that is fortunate enough to attract him. Please do not hesitate to contact me (email: hantula@temple.edu - phone: 215-204-5950) if I can furnish any other information that will help evaluate Dr. Feeney's impressive work and potential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald A. Hantula', written in a cursive style.

Donald A. Hantula, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology