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August 1, 2015

Thomas Burns, Ph.D.
Provost
Belmont University
1900 Belmont Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37212

Dear Dr. Burns,

This is my portfolio for Third Year Tenure Review. I feel confident this dossier will demonstrate my progression toward tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Healthcare Informatics and Analytics in the Department of Pharmaceutical, Social and Administrative Sciences at the College of Pharmacy during the 2017-2018 academic year. I believe this packet will show that I am meeting the criteria for Teaching, Scholarship and Service as outlined in the Belmont University Handbook as well as the Belmont University College of Pharmacy Guidelines.

In support of my teaching, the number of students choosing the Healthcare Informatics concentration in our Doctor of Pharmacy Curriculum has grown tenfold, from two to twenty committed students, since the development of my Introduction to Health Information Technology (HIT) four course sequence, which prepares the student to successfully sit for the Certified Associate in Health Information & Management Systems (CAHIMS) certification from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). Prior to my arrival, our college had the vision of an informatics concentration, but as the subspecialty is so new, struggled to find an HIT expert to fill the position. My understanding is that Healthcare Informatics classes were offered, but were plagued by low enrollments and few students choosing the concentration. The faculty provided what they could to fill the need, but the Healthcare Informatics concentration suffered from the lack of an experienced voice and a clear direction. As a former pharmacist informaticist operating up to the highest levels of healthcare organizations both large and small, I am able to bring the critical projects that face corporate America's healthcare institutions into our classrooms. This ability to draw upon years of experience in healthcare informatics is evident in the classroom and appreciated by our students.

In July 2015 HIMSS announced that the Belmont University College of Pharmacy was recognized as an Approved Education Provider. The designation identifies Belmont as an approved provider of training and education for HIMSS CAHIMS credentials.



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“We are pleased to welcome Belmont University College of Pharmacy as an Approved Education Provider,” said Dr. JoAnn W. Klinedinst, Vice President of Professional Development, HIMSS North America. “They are recognized as experts and thought leaders in electronic health record certification standards and HIT education, and their commitment to provide the Introduction to Health Information Technology (HIT) four course sequence and CAHIMS prep courses with personal mentoring will ensure that candidates sitting for the exams will have received the ‘gold standard’ in preparation and training.” The sequence employs an innovative student centered focus which has resonated with participants in the courses. Quantitatively the trend in my student teaching evaluations has improved and is reflected in my enclosed evaluations, and qualitatively students report that I am knowledgeable, approachable and accessible.

In support of my scholarly activity and personal development, my courses in the Pharm.D. Curriculum represent a significant change in content and direction from the previous Healthcare Informatics focus here at Belmont. In 2009, \$10 million in federal funds was provided to five domestic institutions of higher education to support HIT curriculum development. The materials developed under this program are targeted to enhance programs of workforce training primarily at the college level. The curricula developed were made available to institutions of higher education across the country in the summer of 2011. My classes are based on that original content and have undergone significant revisions here at Belmont over the last two years. These classes allow our students to certify internationally in HIT with HIMSS. I have achieved both the Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CPHIMS) credential and the Certified Associate in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAHIMS) credential in early 2014. The CAHIMS certification is the credential that we are now setting as a potential goal for students in the Healthcare Informatics Concentration here at the College of Pharmacy. I currently have two articles under review, having received requests from both publishers for changes. One poster presentation has been accepted at a national convention which should lead to an additional publication. I have presented on the topic of Health Informatics on both the local and national stages three times over the past two years.

In support of my service, I have enjoyed my contributions at the local, college, university, regional and national levels. Locally, I am pleased to share that my family and I are members of Lee Chapel AME Church, (<https://www.facebook.com/theleechapel>) the oldest African American AME Church in Nashville. The congregation has accepted us as members of the family, and we have responded in kind. In the church our family has received the honor of being the Liturgist Family for Sunday, March 8, 2015. I am currently the lead instructor in our men’s bible study group. I have had the good fortune to



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participate in the collection of travel-sized hygiene items to make goody bags & donate to the residents of Morningside of Belmont Assisted Living Facility during the 2014 Christmas season, and by participating in the 2015 Community Health Fair serving the residents of one of Nashville's low-income communities. I have also volunteered as a member of the parent interview accreditation team at my eldest son's school, Head Middle Magnet School.

At the College level I have been twice honored to present the Information Management Scholar Award at our 2014 and 2015 Doctor of Pharmacy Hooding Ceremonies. I have been elected by my pharmacy colleagues to chair our College Instructional Resources Committee. I am a member of our Admissions committee, our Student Advisory Committee, and in addition to my 12 advisees, I am the class advisor for the class of 2019. At the request of the Dean, I serve as a member of the Belmont University College of Pharmacy External Advisory Committee. At the University level I currently serve as a member of the Belmont Community Accountability Council. I have created and currently chair the Faculty Facilitated Promotion and Tenure Preparation committee to help young faculty university-wide prepare for this 3rd year Tenure review and our tenure application process. I have founded and currently participate in two Belmont University academic writing groups; one interdisciplinary and one Pharmacy specific. Regionally my four class series in Healthcare Informatics is now being considered for adoption by the Nashville Healthcare Council. Nationally I have served as the Vice-chair and currently serve as the Chair of the Educational Steering Committee for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology. ASHP (www.ashp.org) is the largest pharmacy association in the world with more than 40,000 members globally.

I believe that all of the experiences described above and in the subsequent pages of my dossier demonstrates my progress toward tenure and promotion. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony Blash, Pharm.D., BCompSc, CPHIMS, CAHIMS
Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Informatics and Analytics
Department of Pharmaceutical, Social and Administrative Sciences
Belmont University College of Pharmacy