



Rensselaer

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, & SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF [REDACTED]
RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
3404 RUSSELL SAGE LABORATORY
110 8TH STREET
TROY, NY 12180-3590

To: Mary Simoni, Dean, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

From: [REDACTED], Professor and Department Head of [REDACTED]; and Chair, [REDACTED] Search Committee

Re: Proposed Appointment of [REDACTED] as Assistant Professor of [REDACTED], effective [REDACTED]

Date: [REDACTED]

SUMMARY

The [REDACTED] Search Committee and the Department of [REDACTED] enthusiastically recommend the appointment of [REDACTED] as Assistant Professor of Economics, effective [REDACTED].

The Department of [REDACTED] Tenure/Tenure-Track Faculty vote was [REDACTED] in favor of the proposed appointment, [REDACTED] against, and [REDACTED] abstention.

BACKGROUND OF THE SEARCH

In August [REDACTED] an advertisement was posted in [REDACTED], on the [REDACTED] website, and on the RPI/HASS website. The committee solicited applications for assistant professors who could contribute to the Department's emerging strength in the [REDACTED]. The committee received [REDACTED] applications from around the world and from a tremendously diverse group of scholars. [REDACTED] were selected for interviews in [REDACTED] in early January at the [REDACTED] meeting. As a result of these 30-minute interviews, [REDACTED] candidates were invited for on-campus interviews and [REDACTED] actually visited.

BACKGROUND OF THE CANDIDATE

[REDACTED] received [REDACTED] B.A. in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] earned an M.S. in [REDACTED] and expects to receive [REDACTED] Ph.D. in [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] in May [REDACTED].

RESEARCH

research focuses on topics related to . In particular, dissertation research examines . For example, in main job market paper empirically measures . The tricky empirical challenge in the research is

In other work that is either published or in the review process, examine the

is off to a productive start to research career. has already published one article in the highly prestigious and has a revise-and-resubmit from , a very respectable general interest journal. has a number of working papers and papers in progress, which bodes well for a productive start to career.

TEACHING

has extensive experience teaching across a variety of different areas within . has served as a teaching assistant for . In fact, served as an instructor of his own section of . students evaluations from are all very strong, always putting better than the average among peers. Moreover, student evaluation in his own course was 4.8 out of 5.0. While we do not have comparative data, in absolute terms that performance is remarkable. seminar presentation during visit to Rensselaer was very clear and handled challenging questions skillfully. Thus, we expect to excel in the classroom at Rensselaer.

At Rensselaer the Department expects [REDACTED] to teach [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED].

PROGRAMMATIC FIT

[REDACTED] would be an outstanding appointment for the Department of [REDACTED] and RPI more generally. [REDACTED] has established a solid start to [REDACTED] research career, with one paper already accepted at the highly respectable [REDACTED] and another paper in the R&R phase. [REDACTED] has a very focused research agenda and will hit the ground running upon appointment. As [REDACTED] advisor [REDACTED], “

[REDACTED]”

[REDACTED] fits solidly with our aim to develop strength in the [REDACTED] of innovation, [REDACTED] approaches the question from a [REDACTED] perspective, trying to explain how [REDACTED]. Such a question is of critical importance in understanding [REDACTED]. Moreover, [REDACTED] interest in [REDACTED] questions more generally will enable the Department of [REDACTED] to become more complete contributors to IDEA and the use of interesting new data being generated at Rensselaer.

A small department benefits tremendously by adding a new scholar who can bridge gaps between seemingly disparate research areas within [REDACTED] – in this case, [REDACTED], an area in which we lack strength, and [REDACTED], an area in which we have strength. A scholar who adds such research complementarities bolsters a relatively small department’s ability to train graduate students along a structured path. It is important to emphasize, however, that while the Department is enthusiastic about adding new faculty, the recent focus given available funding has been to hire early-career assistant professors. One note of concern to raise as we envision a restructuring of the [REDACTED] program is that we presently face the risk of not being able to provide adequate senior mentorship for our doctoral students. Early assistant professors need to focus mostly on their own research, so adding a tenured associate professor to our ranks remains a critical need for the Department going forward.