

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



October 28, 2013

Mark Light, Ph.D.
Executive in Residence
Visiting Assistant Professor
School of Public Service

School of Public Service
1 East Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-2201
312/362-5564
FAX: 312/362-5506

Office Location:
14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1600

RE: Peer Review, MPS 500: Introduction to Public Service Management, Fall 2013

Dear Mark,

Thank you for allowing me to sit in on your morning section of MPS 500 to observe your teaching methods and to offer an external collegial perspective. Prior to class, I reviewed your syllabus and noticed how you improved the common syllabus used by all 500 faculty including myself. The provision of providing more structured course details and clearer detailed criteria for written assignments and grading allows the student to know and understand your expectations and ask for clarity if they do not understand.

I observed how comfortable and natural it is for you to interact with the students before beginning the class. The students projected a sense of confidence that appears you establish by example. I appreciate how you identified my presence and purpose to remove the perceived elephant in the room. Your interactive and dynamic style establishes a classroom environment that challenges the students to think about the concepts presented in different ways from their own perspectives, while offering support and an openness that allows the students to feel safe and confident in sharing their own thoughts.

Your well balanced use of concise and direct slides breaking the concepts down to better understand vague concepts fosters a better didactic conversation with the students. Your ability to connect often dry and obscure theoretical concepts to humorous parables, recent news events, movies, television shows, and even sporting events captures the student's attention and helps them understand the here and now applicability of the concepts.

You are a naturally gifted outstanding teacher in and outside of the classroom. Your caring and appreciation of individual differences in learning is clear on how you blend auditory, visual, and written materials in your varied methods of classroom instruction. Your genuine concern for student learning is measured on how the students feel about themselves while in your class. This is very apparent when speaking with them.

I have little to offer regarding course design and teaching strategies to consider. In fact, I learned some excellent strategies that I will incorporate into my teaching.

I encourage you to continue to enhance and update your teaching strategies. You are a valuable asset to SPS and our students. I encourage you to share your special gift of teaching with your colleagues, particularly the junior faculty who want to improve their teaching skills.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to lifelong learning.

Sincerely,

Bill

William Calzaretta, Ph.D.
Interim Director
School of Public Service
DePaul University