



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

PHYSICS

Alex Weiss

June 6, 2003

Dear Search Committee Chair,

I am writing this letter for Dr. Lei Zhang who has applied for a position in your department. I have known Dr. Lei Zhang since he entered the graduate program in Physics and Applied Physics at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) in 1996. Although I was not his dissertation advisor, I am well acquainted with Dr. Zhang's academic and research accomplishments at UTA. I was Dr. Lei's professor in three graduate level courses and I was a member of his dissertation committee. In addition, in my capacity as associate chair of the physics department, I was responsible for supervising Dr. Zhang in his activities as a teaching assistant. In each case I was impressed with Dr. Zhang hard work and enthusiasm.

Dr. Zhang's dissertation research involved an experimental determination of the electro-optics properties of crystalline materials and semiconductor, under the supervising of Dr. S.C. Sharma. In the process of this research, Dr. Zhang developed novel nuclear methods to detect and analyze the change of electric density in polymer-dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC) materials. Dr. Zhang was able to set up a new experimental program, make the connections between his data and the relevant physical principles and provide a cogent explanation of the phenomena observed.

Dr. Zhang has had extensive experience in teaching our labs and was regarded as one our most capable instructors. He was responsible for giving a ~20 minute lecture before each lab and working closely with students on a one on one basis to develop their understanding.

On a personal basis, Dr. Lei Zhang is an intelligent, resourceful, outgoing and honest person.

All in all, I believe his academic training, experience, and abilities make Dr. Zhang an excellent candidate for an academic position. If you have any further question, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alex Weiss".

Alex Weiss  
Professor and Associate Chair