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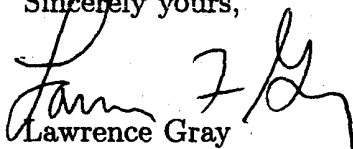
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR MARIA GRACHEVA

This letter concerns the teaching activities of Maria Gracheva, who taught a lecture of Precalculus for our department in Fall 2002. It is based on the results of student evaluations, and my interactions with her regarding her assignments. Briefly, I believe her to be a conscientious and dependable teacher who does a fine job. Student reaction has been about average.

Precalculus is taught in lectures of about 100-150 students, with the assistance of TA's. Many professors find it to be a difficult class to teach, because the students are not always very cooperative. On our student evaluations, the average rating received by instructors in our department for this course is around 4.4 on a scale of 1 to 7 ("How would you rate the instructor's overall teaching ability?"). When Maria taught this course last Fall, her average rating was 4.5. Given her relative lack of experience, I was pleased with this result. When I first met with her, I had some concerns about her, the fact that she tended to speak softly, but she told me she was aware of the need to speak loudly in class, and apparently, there was not a problem, either with her soft voice or with her accent. She was quite easy to work with and was careful to follow departmental procedures.

I hope this information is useful to you. If you have further questions for me, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



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