

WESLEYAN

U N I V E R S I T Y

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
265 Church Street
Middletown, CT 06459-0155
(860) 685-2030 FAX: (860) 685-2031



January 29, 2004

Biocomplexity Faculty Search Committee
c/o Prof. Rob de Ruyter van Steveninck
Biocomplexity Institute
Indiana University
Swain Hall West 117
Bloomington, IN 47405-7105

Dear Prof. de Ruyter van Steveninck

Felicia Pitici was a post-doc working for David Beveridge in the Chemistry department here at Wesleyan University. She had a background in physics -- her research involved molecular dynamics calculations of protein folding -- and at the time she indicated to me that she was interested filling in if we had any temporary teaching needs. In the fall of 2001, an opportunity arose and we had her teach a course for us in Experimental Optics. This fall and spring, we again called on her to fill in for a last minute staffing shortfall with our non-calculus Introductory Physics.

My knowledge of her research qualifications is limited to informal conversations that I've had with her, and one or two research presentations of hers that I attended over the past few years. In this respect, she has impressed me as being intelligent and organized. Her talks were clear and enjoyable, so I would have no reason to doubt her competency as a researcher.

As the instructor of our Optics Lab, Felicia had a graduate teaching assistant with past experience with the lab, so we were not overly concerned with her theoretical background. It was a small class (12 students) and she had had formal training in optics. She did well, was liked by the students. This experience with her gave us the confidence to take advantage of her services again this academic year in the introductory course.

Her performance in the introductory course this year was commendable for her first experience with a large lecture setting of over 100 students. She initially had difficulty holding the attention of the class, but we have worked with her and are satisfied with her improvement.

Felicia is extremely conscientious and reliable, and from what I observe, has an enthusiasm and passion for her work. She has a pleasant personality. I believe that she would easily fulfill a role as a productive researcher, teacher, and colleague.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred M. Ellis".

Fred M. Ellis
Professor of Physics
Wesleyan University