Supporting Documents for the Nomination of Dr. Shawki Areibi for a Teaching Award

Mar 17, 2008

Dr. Shawki Areibi has been teaching at the University level for more than ten years. Two years as an assistant professor in the Electrical Engineering Department at **Ryerson Polytechnic University** and nine as an assistant/associate professor in the School of Engineering at the **University of Guelph**. Dr. Areibi has also been affiliated with the **University of Waterloo** where he has been an adjunct since 1997 (he has taught several courses between the period 1999 and 2000). The basis for nominating Dr. Areibi for a UGFA teaching award are as follows:

1. **Classroom instruction, including lecturing, small-group teaching, and laboratory instruction**
   Evidence of excellent performance in teaching is provided in **Appendix A**. Testimonial letters from "students", "alumni", "fellow members" and "administrators" are attached. A summary of what students and peers say about Dr. Areibi in their letters of support:

   - *"Overall he was a great professor. Definitely one of the best I've had since I started at Guelph 2 years ago"*.
   - *"Dr. Areibi's exceptional contributions to the School of Engineering extend beyond teaching"*.
   - *"A dedicated professor and a role model to his students and faculty"*
   - *"This man teaches from the heart"*.
   - *"This mentor-ship goes well beyond that offered by most of the faculty members at institutions across Canada"*.
   - *"In the field of offering lectures, his power of knowledge and enthusiasm in educating his students is a matter of conspicuous method of conveying profitable enlightments to his students"*.
   - *"His students and colleagues considered him rightfully as one of the best instructors in the Department and the Faculty"*
   - *"I found him always strives for excellence and provides a very distinguishable teaching performance"*.

• *His ability to teach is unparalleled and I am glad that his talent as a professor is finally going to be recognized".*

In addition, his course evaluations are outstanding! as evident from course evaluations held in three different universities (Ryerson, Waterloo and Guelph). In almost all courses he taught his average evaluations as a professor was above 90%. Past evaluations from students taking several of his courses are attached in **Appendix B**. A summary of quotations taken at course evaluations:

- *"Best teacher, Great Prof and very sincere".*
- *"This was probably the best taught and most informative class I've taken so far; excellent job!!".*
- *"The best prof. I've encountered at UofG".*
- *"Overall you are the best prof, I've ever seen in UofW".*
- *"I enjoyed Prof. Areibi lectures very much they were informative and understandable".*
- *"Dr. Areibi has shown a level of dedication and enthusiasm towards this course that is quite rare!".*

2. **Consultation with Students outside of class, including individual tutoring and advising**
Appendix A and B show the dedication of Dr. Areibi towards teaching and his commitment regarding consultation with students outside of class. He encourages students to get involved in design competitions as evident in **Appendix C**. Dr. Areibi has supervised several students in the IEEE CSIDC competition in 1999 and also in the IEEE paper competition in March 2002.

3. **Course Design**
Dr. Areibi has been involved with the development of several courses at both Ryerson Polytechnic University and the University of Guelph. **Appendix D** includes the outline of several undergraduate courses and a graduate course he is currently offering at the School of Engineering with great success.

4. **Development of programs to improve Teaching**
Dr. Areibi has shown his interest in education and teaching not only as a professor who offers courses to students but also in developing programs that will enhance teaching quality. **Appendix E** show the support he received from the Deans office, School of Engineering and Teaching Support Services to design an "electronic tutor" via multi-agent technology that supports education. Dr. Areibi has also participated in joining several University Programs i.e "Altera University Program", "Xilinx University Program" to enhance laboratories by donations from very well respected companies such as Altera and Xilinx. He also managed to get sponsorship from "Rational Rose" development

company and grant the School of Engineering packages worth over 300,000 $ for the software engineering course currently taught at the school. Dr. Areibi's efforts in representing Guelph for the Canadian Microelectoroncis Corporation (CMC) has resulted in donating VLSI CAD tools to the School of Engineering (packages from Cadence, Synopsys, Xilinx, Mentor Graphics, Memspro e.t.c) worth more than 2.5$ million. These tools are intended for both graduate/undergraduate teaching courses in VLSI design and Microelectronics.

5. **Research on University Teaching**
   Dr. Areibi research interest go beyond VLSI design and reconfigurable computing systems. His research interests are also geared towards educational systems. This is evident in his publications in well respected conferences i.e "Frontiers in Education" that took place in Reno in 2001 (see **Appendix F** for more details).

6. **Dedication towards Teaching**
   Dr. Areibi has contributed towards attracting excellent students to the School of Engineering by participating in several programs such as "Telethone", "Science and Engineering Night", "National Engineering Week", "Campus Days" and most recently "Engineering Alumni Careers Night" to familiarize students with engineering concepts via interactions with our alumni. **Appendix G** summarizes some of these activities and also shows some sample appreciations from students. A summary of quotations from emails sent by students:

   - *"Thanks for being such a great prof. You made the course very fun and interesting and reminded me why I wanted to be in systems engineering".*

   - *"Thanks again for all the knowledge I have gained from you and your classes".*

   - *"Hear hear! In a year dominated by differential equations ... it was nice to have a course that was fun and interesting and a professor that cared about his class!".*

7. **Thesis Supervision**
   Dr. Areibi supervised over 20 students in the past nine years in Guelph. Currently he is supervising 2 PhD students and 6 masters students. He is also co-supervising several students at the University of Waterloo. **Appendix H** includes his form 100 and his annual report to the School. Page 7 of form 100 summarizes his supervision of graduate and undergraduate students. Page 8 of his P&T document further elaborates on his supervision of graduate students.

8. **Curriculum Development**
   Several letters from the director of the School of Engineering and peers indicate Dr. Areibi's involvement in the development of the ES&C curriculum. His efforts towards this important area of education is evident from letters by his peers and his fellow faculty members (See **Appendix I** for more details).