

Taipei American School

800 Chung Shan N. Road, Section 6
Taipei, Taiwan, ROC 11152
Telephone +886-2-2873-9900
www.tas.edu.tw



台北美國學校

中華民國台灣
台北市11152中山北路六段800號

15 September 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Nick Coburn-Palo for a college or university faculty position. He has been a member of my department since I returned to Taipei American School (TAS) in 2014, and I have been consistently impressed by the quality of his teaching throughout our time working together.

Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of Dr. Coburn-Palo's pedagogy is his focus on simulation-oriented teaching. Regardless of the specific course being taught, he makes sure students are given opportunities to practice the skills and concepts they are learning in the kinds of situations in which they would prove useful.

The clearest example of this focus is the course in Crisis & Leadership that Dr. Coburn-Palo developed during his time at TAS. That course, which is designed to help students develop both leadership and crisis management skills, was taught using case studies, and then by asking students to apply the lessons of those examples in a series of relevant simulations. The course has proven to be quite successful, with 100% of students responding to an anonymous survey last year reporting that the course was challenging but that Dr. Coburn-Palo was both extremely knowledgeable, able to explain things clearly, and inspirational. One of Dr. Coburn-Palo's students wrote, describing their instructor, "Genuine, inspirational, visionary, encouraging, and I am so truly blessed and fortunate to have known him in my high school career."

Dr. Coburn-Palo has also contributed to the department by redesigning existing courses to help better align those classes with existing best practices. Just this year, for example, he updated our AP United States Government & Politics course to more accurately reflect what a university's actual introductory course would entail. Among other changes, students are now much more focused on reading, and evaluating primary sources.

It should come as no surprise, then, that Dr. Coburn-Palo's debate students have been extremely successful as well. They have, for example, been champions of our regional league, for the first time since 2000, twice reached the Elite 8 of the International Public Policy Forum, a global written and spoken debate contest that features hundreds of teams from over a dozen countries, and won the international division at the National Tournament of Champions, one of the most prestigious high school debate tournaments in the United States.

In short, Dr. Coburn-Palo has been a tremendous asset to the TAS community. The growth of our department, and the success of our students, would not have been possible without him. I have no doubt he would prove equally valuable to any college or university that would be fortunate enough to have him. I am sorry to see him go, but he has certainly earned my recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Nelson".

Adam F. Nelson, J.D.
Chair, Political Science & Forensics Department