



September 28, 2022

Distinguished Scholar Award Committee:

We would like to nominate our colleague, Dr. John Passe-Smith, in the Department of Political Science at the University of Central Arkansas for the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Arkansas Political Science Association (ArkPSA). We believe that Dr. Passe-Smith meets the criteria for this award, specifically that the nominee “have an exemplary teaching, scholarship, and/or service record in the areas of political science, public administration, or public policy, including at least ten years in the state of Arkansas.”

Dr. Passe-Smith has been a member of the ArkPSA for nearly 30 years. He was first hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at UCA in 1993. He was subsequently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 1998 and promoted to full Professor in 2004 on the basis of his outstanding record and achievements in the areas of scholarship, teaching, and service. In 2001, Dr. Passe-Smith was presented with the Outstanding Faculty Award by the College of Liberal Arts for his achievements in these areas.

In the area of scholarship, Dr. Passe-Smith has developed a reputation for his research and publications on the topics of international development, underdevelopment, and political economy. Most notably, he co-edited five different editions of the important book, *Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Global Inequality*, with Dr. Mitchell Seligson at Vanderbilt University between 1993 and 2014. In each of those editions, Dr. Passe-Smith contributed chapters focusing on the gap between rich and poor countries and assessments of the measures of the income gap between countries. In addition, he co-edited, co-authored, or authored two additional academic books, four scholarly articles, and four book chapters during this time period. Dr. Pass-Smith’s research has significantly contributed to our understanding of international development, underdevelopment, and political economy, including more than 400 citations of his published work.

In the area of teaching, Dr. Passe-Smith has consistently been an outstanding classroom instructor during the past three decades, including being one of the first UCA professors to integrate technology into his teaching. He also worked with other UCA faculty to enhance their courses with computer technology over the past two decades. Dr. Passe-Smith has taught the introductory comparative politics course in the department for nearly 30 years. In addition, he developed and taught several upper-division comparative politics courses in the department, including Political Economy of Development, International Political Economy, Mexican Politics and U.S.-Mexican Relations, Politics of Developing Countries, and Revolution & Mass Political Violence. In his lower-level and upper-level courses, Dr. Passe-Smith exposes students to

methods of analyzing empirical data. In addition, he has taught a methodology course, Political Science Applications in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), for students pursuing majors or minors in political science, public administration, and international studies.

In the area of service, Dr. Passe-Smith has made numerous and valuable contributions to the department, college, university, and profession. In the department, Dr. Passe-Smith has closely mentored dozens of students and faculty colleagues, and he has served as director of the Social Sciences computer lab for several years. He has also been an active member and chair of both the department and college tenure & promotion committees and curriculum committees. Dr. Passe-Smith has served on the UCA Faculty Senate and as a reviewer for the State of Arkansas' Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program. Over the past two decades, Dr. Passe-Smith has served in several leadership roles in the ArkPSA, including as President of the association for two terms (2004-2005 and 2005-2006), Vice President (2003-2004), and Program Chair (2002-2003). In addition, Dr. Passe-Smith served as Editor of the *Midsouth Political Science Review* (MPSR) from 2007 to 2013 and has served as Associate Editor of the MPSR since 2013.

In summary, we believe that our colleague Dr. John Passe-Smith fully meets the criteria for the Distinguished Scholar Award of the ArkPSA, including outstanding achievements in the areas of scholarship, teaching, and service. We ask that the committee accept the nomination of Dr. Passe-Smith for consideration of this award in 2022-2023. We have attached a copy of his curriculum vitae. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kim Hoffman
Professor



Dr. Mark Mullenbach
Associate Professor