

Professor Valerie Ashby
Dean of Faculty
Arts and Sciences
104 Allen Building

December 15, 2015
315 Allen Building

Dear Dean Ashby:


This afternoon the Officer Education Committee met to consider nominating Captain Jody Wood to the position of Visiting Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies for a period of approximately two and a half years, from January 31, 2016 to June 1, 2019. Present for the committee, in addition to myself, were Dean Milton Blackmon, Professors Joseph Nadeau and Michael Gustafson, and four unit commanders: Lt Colonel Hunt (Air Force), Lt Colonel Shellabarger (Marines), Lt Colonel Langkamp (Army), and Captain Gillespie (Navy)

Captain Wood has served in the military for sixteen years, the first five as a Hospital Corpsman in the Navy, the remainder in the Air Force. He has most recently returned from a seven-month deployment in Afghanistan, where he supervised a unit responsible for overseeing billions of dollars' worth of military materiel. His academic record includes a BS degree in Biomedical Engineering from North Carolina State University and a Master's Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2009. During his years at North Carolina State he did some tutoring of adults in his local area, and his military duty has sometimes involved teaching and training other soldiers, though not in the standard academic fashion.

During our conversation with Captain Wood by speakerphone, the Committee judged him to be a thoughtful and congenial prospective teacher in the Duke classroom. His mentor, Colonel Hunt, assured us that Captain Wood would have a period of teacher training and acclimatization before meeting his classes, as is customary for junior faculty in our ROTC courses. Although Captain Wood's academic performance at North Carolina State University was uneven, his outstanding record as an M.A. student overshadowed his earlier record, in the Committee's judgment.

After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to nominate Captain Wood to the foregoing position. In case further scrutiny is desired, my copy of his dossier is appended to this letter for safekeeping your files. Captain Wood may be contacted through the office of Colonel Jesse Hunt in the office of Aerospace Studies.

Yours very truly,


Victor Strandberg
Professor of English & Chair,
Officer Education Committee