



3 March 2010


To Whom It May Concern:

Prof. Georges Goma-GAKISSA has been a lecturer in this department since September 2006. He has done an excellent job training a range of upper division undergraduate courses in Sociology and Social Work. These courses he taught included Minority Groups, Prejudice and Discrimination, Introduction to Social Services, Social Policy, and Human Behavior in the Social Environment. He also taught a topics seminar on Aging, which is one of his specialties. Prof. Goma has brought extraordinary energy to his classes; he is rigorous and fair; and he has broadened our students' horizons by successfully providing them with an international and comparative perspective. He is able to easily compare in depth the organization and execution of social services in the United States, France and the Congo. He is also a very perceptive observer of social structural differences and is very skilled at communicating these differences with graduate and undergraduate students alike. Prof. Goma has also taught graduate social work classes in our sister department and Introductory and Intermediate French.

What is so remarkable about Prof. Goma's teaching accomplishments is that he had taught only in French before joining us. Now, he is an accomplished English instructor and is virtually without accent. As a full-time instructor he has had virtually no time to engage in scholarship or research, but he has at least two papers in progress and has presented at international and national conferences. Finally, he is very popular among students who eagerly enroll in his classes. He is also well liked and respected by our faculty. Before our current university's budget crisis, we had planned to encouraging particularly talented sociology majors to also take French. They would then be eligible to participate in our exchange program with The English department at The University of Paris. We had hoped to have Prof. Goma direct this effort.

Unfortunately, we are unable to continue Prof. Goma's contract or consider him for a tenure track position despite his clear qualifications and demonstrated excellence in teaching. Unprecedented budget cuts make it necessary to end all of our lecturer contracts. We deeply regret losing Prof. Goma as an instructor and colleague. We hope that you will consider him for your program or department. We recommend him with enthusiasm. Someone with his talent and soul certainly deserves better than what this State now has to offer. If you have any questions about Prof. Goma, please do not hesitate to call, write or email (Benjamin.bowser@csueastbay.edu). We will not be at peace until he is again professionally engaged.

Sincerely,



Benjamin P. Bowser
Professor and Chair