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Franklin College of Arts & Sciences

Department of Physics and Astronomy

September 25, 2024

Commitment/Letter of Support for Nandana Weliweriya

Dear UGA SPA Office,

Nandana Weliweriya is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. His Ph.D. is in Physics with a focus on Physics Education. Our department expects that he will seek external funding from the National Science Foundation Research on Innovative Technologies for Enhanced Learning (RITEL) program, for the project entitled "Interactive Astronomy: Promoting Active Learning with Immersive Experiences", acting in a Co-PI capacity, and I urge SPA to allow him to do so.

Dr. Weliweriya is not only a gifted instructor, he has continued to conduct physics education research even though his current Lecturer position is 100% instruction. During his time at UGA, he has mentored several undergraduate and graduate students in research and outreach projects.

The Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy will support Dr. Weliweriya in obtaining such a grant by providing office space and computer equipment, office supplies, etc., throughout the life of the project. Should it become necessary, the Department Head will identify another individual to act as Co-PI. However it should be noted that in most cases when an individual leaves UGA before the project ends, their portion of the grant moves to the next institution.

Sincerely,

Craig C. Wiegert
Associate Professor and Interim Head
Department of Physics and Astronomy

Neil Lyall
Associate Dean
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences