

Model Professional Self Evaluation Academic

I completed a BSc with 1st class honours in geography (with specialisations in physical and human geography) in 1981; a MA with distinction in geography in 1985 and a PhD in geography, with the support of a scholarship in 1989. I have also completed a Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Education (1994) and a Master of Educational Management degree in 2004.

After I completed my PhD, I taught at a University for 1 ½ years before accepting a post in 1992. Over the next six years I was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer to Reader and eventually Professor in 2000. For the past four years I have been Head of the School of Geography. During my term as Head, the school has shifted from offering predominantly human geography topics within a limited range of degrees to being a multi-faceted educational 'provider' of an array of offerings. (Examples of degrees and PhDs listed)

As Head of School I have responsibility for:

- guiding and developing teaching and research within the school
- external collaboration and promotion – with other schools, professional bodies, and the external community
- the governance of the school, including developing and implementing quality assurance procedures and strategic directions
- managing personnel-related issues such as supervision, staff recruitment and promotion, performance reviews and staff development, and staff and student grievances. I have a strong grasp of the statutory obligations in my field and have, for example, completed relevant occupational health and safety training for supervisors
- managing the finance and infrastructure through planning, budgeting and expenditure control

During my term as Head I believe I have consolidated and enhanced the School's reputation in teaching, research and within the broader community, whilst maintaining a legacy of collegial good management. While others might judge my contributions in this role, I can observe that I was recently elected unopposed and unanimously by my colleagues for a second three-year term. I believe my contributions to geography within higher educational institutions have also been acknowledged by my peers who, in 2001, asked me to Chair a group for heads of Geography – a position I held until early this year.

I have a sustained history of supporting the advancement of geography. After a period of service (3 years) as a member of Council for a group of geographers I accepted an invitation to take over the role of Secretary. The invitation was founded, in part, on my commitment to advancing the interests of the discipline of geography (e.g. I founded and moderated for several years the first national X for geography). During my term as Secretary I ensured that the group ran smoothly and also brought significant issues of professional ethics, geography's media profile, equality of opportunity within the Institute, and development of international networks with like bodies to the Council's agenda. I was co-Chair of the organising committee for a conference held in 2004. I am also currently serving my second three-year term as an invited member of a national committee for Geography. Nearly 10 years ago, together with two others, I established a network for geographers. I continue to help run that network, which now comprises about 250 geographers from around the world. The mission of the network is to improve the quality of learning and teaching in geography in higher education internationally.

I have taken geography to the community more broadly. For instance, I am an inaugural Fellow of the X – an expanding network of government, industry, community and academic personnel dedicated to advancing the various interests of the country. On the basis of my involvement in the X I was selected to become a Trustee of another major state organisation dedicated to encouraging diverse groups and parties to work co-operatively for the country.

My CV illustrates that I have very strong teaching and research credentials. I am the first person at my University to have twice received an X award for teaching excellence. I have also twice been one of the three finalists in the highly competitive Social Sciences (and Education) Division of the country specific National Teaching Award. I continue to participate as a leader in the X Alliance – an X funded program to provide professional development assistance to new professors. I am the founding country specific Commissioning Editor for the *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*; the founding Editor for X (country specific) of the journal *Ethics, Place and Environment*, and am a member of the Editorial Board of several local, national and international journals. I have written or edited half a dozen books. I also have a wide range of publications in very high quality journals including *Applied Geography*, *Disasters*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Geografiska Annaler B*, *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education*, *Journal of Biological Education*, *Political Geography*, and *Progress in Human Geography*.

I believe this short note points to my high level of competence and professionalism in the practice of Geography and related disciplines, demonstrates that I am promoting geography outside of my normal work requirements and that I am committed to maintaining my knowledge through continual professional development. I feel that my qualifications, experience to-date and research interests are well suited to the demands associated with being a Chartered Geographer and would like the added recognition this accreditation provides