

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

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To whom it may concern:

To my knowledge, the University of Notre Dame Department of Music has never experienced the need to institute any policy regarding hugs between faculty, staff, and students---no one has ever objected. We have, for example, an innately exuberant voice teacher (a Catholic priest!) who hugs everyone in sight after each of his concerts, to no one's distress; last year, when my two M. A. candidates (a young man and a young woman) delivered their bound theses to me, I gave them each a small hug. They understood it was quasi-maternal pride; once again, they saw no offense in it. There are, I understand after polling our faculty, a wide range of attitudes---some of them due to religious strictures, as in Orthodox Judaism---on the subject, with the more inherently reserved faculty and staff generally abstaining from the practice and the less reserved acting in accord with both their own feelings and the sensibilities and sensitivities of others.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Youens  
Chair, Department of Music