question, with Dr. Bolte we have one of our true leaders in ability to provide service and leadership on this campus.

Concluding remarks:

The senior astronomy faculty is uniformly and unhesitatingly enthusiastic about the proposed merit increase for Dr. Bolte. The file is extremely strong. The quality and quantity of research is extraordinarily high. As Referee F points out, 76 papers that Dr. Bolte have published "have received > 2700 citations," so it is no surprise that he is a scientist with a very strong international reputation. The service borders on being amazing in its amount and quality. As Referee B puts it, "... Mike Bolte's outstanding research activities and service for the astronomical community highly qualifies him for an advancement into the higher ranks of the professorship. He is one of your most visible and internationally most recognized scholars." In addition, the teaching is exemplary. During the review period, he was offered the Directorship of the McDonald Observatory, one of the leading observatories in the United States. With this would come a much higher salary than we offer him here, yet he turned down this offer because of his commitment to our institution. There is little question that he is a prime candidate for outside recruitment. Referee F summarizes our views very well: "...I find evidence of great distinction in scholarly and creative achievement, excellent mentoring of graduate students, and high meritorious service in Prof. Bolte's activities since his promotion to Full Professor. Accordingly I would judge that he is worthy of the proposed promotion at this time." That is our strong and unanimous conclusion. If we look at the sum total of the file, including the letters of evaluation, we feel that Dr. Bolte has a level of distinction that clearly is consistent with and deserves the rank of Astronomer/Professor Step VI. We strongly urge that this appointment be made, effective July 1, 2005.

Concurrence:_____
                    Stan Woosley
                    Chair, Astronomy and Astrophysics Department