



Gwangju National University of Education
Department of English Education
Pilmundae-ro 55, Buk-gu
Gwangju 61204

August 27, 2021

Dear Nominations and Elections Committee:

I am very pleased to endorse the nomination of Kirsten Razzaq for the position of second vice-president. Over the past several months, I've had the pleasure of working with Kirsten as part of the planning team for the 2021 KOTESOL Film-Making Festival and National Conference; in that time, I've been very impressed with her hard work, confidence, and dedication. I've also participated in some of her presentations at KOTESOL events, and I've found her preparation in advance of the events and her open, enthusiastic demeanor during them to reflect very positively on both her organizational and communication skills.

Kirsten's leadership ability has certainly shone during her time as a leader on the national conference team. She routinely coordinates among team members and has made the co-chair position her own, noting what needs to be done and then taking the initiative to accomplish it, all while helping the conference chair achieve their mutual goals. For instance, Kirsten has taken on primary responsibility for the conference program, which is being handled through our new online platform, Edzil.la. Initially unfamiliar with this tool, Kirsten intentionally took the necessary steps to familiarize herself with it, not only seeking input and advice from people who had administered the platform during the KOTESOL International Conference this past February but also arranging more direct contact with the platform's developers. Now she uses the online site with great facility and has, in fact, not only recruited and managed an enthusiastic team of volunteers to help vet submissions but also trained other conference team members in how to use Edzil.la. Furthermore, her interactions with national conference team members—including myself—are always very positive, transparent, respectful, welcoming, and encouraging.

Overall, Kirsten strikes me as reliable and motivated, friendly and cheerful, insightful and meticulous—all excellent qualities for a leader in our organization and especially for the second vice-president, who not only serves as the liaison for our special interest groups (SIGs) and the KOTESOL Teacher Training program (KTT) but also is responsible for KOTESOL Connections events (formerly known as the leadership retreat). I am confident Kirsten's combination of skills and experience—in addition to her winsome personality—are a perfect match for these responsibilities. Indeed, her dedication and eagerness to meet challenges head-on make her an ideal candidate for this position or any other that intrigues her, and I truly look forward to her continued involvement as a leader in KOTESOL.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Herron
Immediate Past President
KOTESOL