

May 30, 2013

Dear Susan Godreau,

I am writing in support of Katherine (Casey) Kowal's financial aid appeal letter. I have known Casey since Spring 2012 as the Adviser of her sorority, Delta Lambda Nu. Over the past year, I have come to know Casey as more than just an advisee. She stops by my office just to say "hello" or to chat about her day.

I know the past two semesters were extremely challenging for her; I know she was having housemate issues and some mental health issues that she confided in me about. I specifically would like to address the mental health issues. Casey has always tried to be a self-advocate without making excuses. I know that she tried working with the Counseling Center here on campus but was unsuccessful and made to feel like her previous prescribed medical condition was invalid. After this, she came to me in a very frustrated state and was not sure where to turn. We talked about options, I made some calls for her and she ended up going to Claxton Hepburn Medical's Mental Health Center. There, she got the help she needed and a plan to get her life back on track.

I know that Casey missed many classes throughout the semester and I truly believe that this is because her disease/disorder went untreated. I also believe that if Casey is given another chance she will be successful. This semester we discussed how she can utilize all of her available resources to be more proactive and successful at SUNY Potsdam. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Best~

Heather teRiele
Senior Graduate Admissions Counselor
Delta Lambda Nu Adviser