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# The University of Georgia

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*Terry College of Business  
Department of Economics*

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Eric Lamount White

In Eric's cover letter I notice he says that, "as President of the International Business Society, I have developed the valuable skills of time management, efficient organization, and careful planning as I encourage networking with professors, corporate sponsors, and students." This, and much more, is all true.

As faculty advisor to the International Business Society, I interact closely with Eric. In the five years I have been advising the Society, he is by far the best president we have had. The IB Society is a student-led organization that encourages interest in international business through professional development seminars, cultural events, interaction with faculty, field trips, and recruiting events. It holds two faculty Lunch and Learn talks each month, one professional event, and one cultural or fun event. In the fall semester they hold an etiquette dinner and in the spring a field trip to a multi-national corporation. The student Executive Board is responsible for finding, scheduling, and publicizing all of the speakers and events, maintaining student membership, and meeting all University requirements for a student organization. Eric, as President, is ultimately responsible for all of this. The Society is flourishing under his leadership and vision.

I am particularly impressed because the Society had a very rocky start this past fall. The entire student Executive Board was new to their jobs, and nothing was being accomplished. There were lots of emails and meetings amongst the Board members about what needed to happen without anything actually happening. We had very few events the first two months and few new members. As President, it fell to Eric to determine where communication was breaking down, sort through the various Board roles to see who should be doing what, make re-assignments as necessary, hold people accountable and report to me. Eric showed great skill in this, working as a true leader and not as a dictator. He met with every board member individually to explain their position, solicit their input, and ask for their commitment to their role and the Society. He scheduled a retreat for the Executive Board and planned it carefully. By the end of the retreat, all of the Board members knew each other better and an entire calendar for spring events had been worked out. I think all of the Board members respect Eric very much. I have heard no talk or innuendo of high-handedness or failing to do himself what he expects of others.

Working with our Vice-President, who is a senior, has been particularly challenging for Eric. The VP has some very important responsibilities but was not meeting them, but also did not want to give up the position. Eric continued to reach out

to him, encouraging him but refusing to allow him to side-step his responsibilities. I was incredibly impressed with an email Eric sent the VP, which in part included this:

“4. Logistics: A logistical gap is forming over the duties of the Vice President. You need to know everything I know and seek that which you do not. This includes, but is not limited to: recognizing opportunities for the advancement of the Society (better awareness for opportunities that will benefit our members); being a hub of information to any who have questions; reaching out to professors and corporate sponsors for our meetings; ensuring that each event is executed adequately; bringing new, fresh material to the table for discussion; encouraging and inspiring other Executive Board members to perform passionately in their duties; and becoming the ideal outlet for progression into the international business industry that you would have wanted as a desultory freshman

5. Control: Recognize your position in the International Business Society. You have the control to make informed decisions and enforce those decisions. Please use that more in your day-to-day activities. Your actions should not be limited in scope, and your job should never be done. Therefore, you need to think and act freely - independently of the tasks written in the Constitution. Those are merely guidelines should you find yourself confused as to what value you provide to the International Business Society.

Take time to digest what you've just read but be prepared to give more effort from here on out. I am here as a resource, not a boss. We work together to advance the International Business Society. That should be your goal. So be present-minded and engage yourself.”

I have never seen a student show this kind of effective leadership before.

Eric will be an asset anywhere he goes. He is well-spoken, polite, respectful, engaging, resourceful, hard-working and full of passion. I strongly recommend him to you. If you do not have a position for him, you should make one.

Katherine T. McClain, Ph.D.  
Senior Lecturer and Graduate Teaching Coordinator  
Department of Economics, The University of Georgia