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Dr. Frantisek Plasil, Professor Emeritus
Chair of the Habilitation Committee
Department of Distributed and Dependable Systems
Charles University
Malostranske nam.25
11800 Prague 1
Czech Republic

Dear Dr. Plasil,

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the application and promotion of Dr. Zeman for habilitation at Charles University. I am thrilled to write this letter in support of Zeman's case, and can enthusiastically recommend him for this promotion. I have known Dr. Zeman informally for many years, but am familiar with him mostly through the contributions he has made in the field, largely with his work on Universal Dependencies. By way of background, I hold the TJX Feldberg Chair in Computer Science at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, where I am Chair of the Program in Linguistics, Director of the MS Program in Computational Linguistics, and also direct the Laboratory for Linguistics and Computation. My areas of research include computational semantics, temporal reasoning, lexical semantics, spatial reasoning, multimodal semantics, human-computer dialogue interaction, and linguistic annotation for machine learning. I have been actively working in the fields of linguistics, computational linguistics, and AI for over 30 years.

Dr. Zeman's work has contributed significantly to the development and refinement of the Universal Dependencies (UD) framework, which aims to create cross-linguistically consistent grammatical annotations for many languages. This framework facilitates the comparison and integration of linguistic data across different languages, and has proven to be a pivotal resource for contemporary parsing algorithms.

In his thesis, Zeman, emphasizes the importance of harmonizing linguistic resources to enable better cross-linguistic research and applications. By standardizing resources, this work supports the development of multilingual natural language processing tools and models. Further, by providing a unified approach to linguistic annotation, Zeman's work has enhanced the capabilities of NLP systems to process multiple languages more effectively. This is, in turn, crucial for building more inclusive and accessible language technologies. The originality of the thesis was verified using the Turnitin system, whose results I was able to study. The analysis confirms that the work is original and free from plagiarism.

It is significant that Zeman's efforts in harmonizing linguistic resources has helped to promote international collaboration among linguists and computational linguists, as well as in the sharing of data, tools, and methodologies, thereby advancing the field of computational linguistics. Overall, Zeman's work in cross-language harmonization is pivotal in bridging linguistic diversity and fostering advancements in multilingual NLP.

Dr. Zeman has been an active and important member of the CL community, contributing in a number of significant ways to the promotion and development of research, reviewing, organization, and outreach. He has been involved in reviewing and organizing for all the major conferences in the field, as well as a player in shared task development for the evaluation of NLP technologies. His contributions to the field are widely acknowledged, as he has been given chairing and organizational roles with significant responsibility.

I can strongly testify to the originality of Dr. Zeman's research and his published work, and definitely recommend him for further progress in the habilitation procedure. As one of the top NLP researchs in the field, I believe that he has already had an enormous influence on the field of computational linguistics, particularly in relation to computational morphology, the analysis of syntactic relations, and the development of universal dependency relations. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Professor James Pustejovsky
TJX Feldberg Chair in Computer Science
Department of Computer Science
Chair, Language and Linguistics Program
Chair, Computational Linguistics MS Program