PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
Department of Social Sciences

Martin J. Herschok, associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:
Ph.D. 1996 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
M.A. 1988 Wayne State University
B.A. 1985 University of Michigan-Dearborn

Professional Record:
2011-present Associate Provost, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2005-2011 Chair, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2005-present Associate Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1999-2005 Assistant Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1997-1999 Assistant Professor of History, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching: Professor Herschok's rating in the category of teaching is excellent. He has developed a variety of courses crucial to the discipline's American history offerings. These include American Past I, Early American Republic, Civil War and Reconstruction, and Michigan History. He has also overseen an impressive number of undergraduate research projects through numerous independent studies and senior honors theses, with students from these courses often going on to present their research at Meeting of the Minds, the Michigan Undergraduate Research Forum, and regional meetings of the Phi Alpha Theta (History Honors Fraternity).

Professor Herschok is among the department's most popular and successful teachers. His courses are often among the first to close, and his student evaluations are consistently among the highest. His knowledge of the field of American history is vast, and his ability to bring it to life for students is legendary. He is a master story teller, interweaving various pedagogical and audio-visual techniques to engage students in the story of America's past and to facilitate their learning of it. He is a challenging teacher, but at the same time deeply interested in his students' academic growth. His colleagues have the same high regard for his teaching, characterizing him as an inspiring and exemplary teacher. The fact that he received the UM-D Distinguished Teaching Award before tenure and has been nominated several times for the UM-D Distinguished Teaching Award since tenure is powerful proof of how truly revered a teacher of history he is.

Research: Professor Herschok's rating in the category of research is excellent. Since publishing his award-winning book on mid nineteenth-century Michigan politics in 2004, he has ventured into another historical era and field, undertaking pioneering work on the micro-history of early nineteenth-century New England, the results of which will be published by Michigan University Press in Spring, 2011 under the title, The Life and Times of Timothy M. Joy, Debtor, 1789-1813. In the meantime, he continues to be a highly-productive antebellum-America scholar, co-editing books on Abraham Lincoln and on the history of Michigan Law; publishing book chapters on the Republican party in Michigan during the 1850s and on railroad law and the economy during the pre-Civil War period; and contributing encyclopedia entries on diverse topics such as Native Americans in the Old Northwest, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of
1854, and territorial government in the new American nation. With his next project – a biography of Henry Ford, which is already under contract with Routledge Press – he will be moving into yet another distinct field of American history. This remarkable eclecticism and productivity testify to Professor Herschok’s singular achievements as a scholar.

Recent and Significant Publications:
Herschok, M. "'Agitation is as Necessary as Tranquility is Dangerous:' Kingsley S. Bingham Becomes a Republican," in Paul Finkelman and Donald Kennon, eds. Congress and the Crisis of the 1850s (Athens: Ohio University Press, in press).

Service: Professor Herschok’s rating in the category of service is excellent. His many significant contributions to UM-D touch all facets and levels of campus life. Most notably, he was chair of the Department of Social Sciences for two consecutive terms (2005-2011), and was elected to serve a third term when he accepted an offer from Provost Davy to become an associate provost. Also significant are his college wide contributions, which include membership on the CASL Dean Search Committee (2010), CASL Dean Transition Team (2010-2011), Urban Regional Studies Faculty Advisory Committee (2007-present), and the American Studies Advisory Committee (2002-present). Of additional importance are his campus-wide service activities, including the Emerging Priorities Task Force (2011-present), Assistant Provost Search Committee (2010), Campus 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee (2007-2009), and Teacher Prep Council (2009-present). He has been unusually successful in receiving Teaching American History Grants from the Federal Government that bring together our history faculty with teachers in nearby middle and high schools to improve the teaching of American history. Finally, he has been extremely generous with requests from historical societies and other local groups to offer public presentations on American and Michigan history. Professor Herschok’s service to UM-D and to the Detroit Metropolitan region in general has been truly remarkable.

External Reviewers:
Reviewer A: “Dr. Herschok has maintained an impressive record of scholarship as an Associate Professor of History. His works have covered a wide range of subjects and include material that both advance historians’ knowledge of nineteenth-century America and provide instructors with useful readings to help students’ understanding of History as an academic discipline. His record likewise indicates that he will continue to maintain a high level of productivity over the next several years.”

Reviewer B: “Herschok’s credentials document a balanced and consistent output since his promotion in 2005. He is a lively and busy contributor to the work of UM-Dearborn in every important regard. He is an active and engaged scholar in the field of early American history and in local history. He is, as well, an upstanding servant of the department and college.”

Reviewer C: “In all, Martin Herschok has completed a substantial corpus of scholarship that is impressive it its sophistication and presentation. It is particularly impressive because he is still a [junior] scholar who will continue to grow and produce.”
Reviewer D: “[With respect to the book on Timothy Joy,] Martin Herschock has not only transcribed the diary but has gone to tremendous depths of ‘microhistorical’ research in order to reconstruct the background, life, and times of this otherwise unknown individual. He has done an impressive job of uncovering the few details available regarding Timothy Joy’s life, recounting the circumstances in which he grew up and sketching the economic, religious, and political character of the New England area where Joy lived. ... [Professor Herschock] is an outstanding teacher-scholar.”

Reviewer E: “[Professor Herschock’s work] continues to be stimulating, informative, and soundly executed. ... [I believe he] stands in the upper middle rank of professional historians of the antebellum era. He has produced a good quantity of well-respected work and gives every sign of continuing to do so.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Herschock is an exceptional teacher and an outstanding scholar. The Department of Social Sciences has rated him as excellent in all three areas: teaching, research, and service. He is a role model not only to his students, but to his colleagues as well. His wide-ranging skills and abilities, and his dedication to his work make him a most highly valued member of the department, the college, and the university. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Martin J. Herschock for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Jerold L. Hale, Dean  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Daniel Little, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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