

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

Jacob S. Blumner, associate professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	University of Nevada, Reno
M.A.	1992	California State University, Long Beach
B.A.	1990	California State University, Long Beach

Professional Record:

2008 – Present	Associate Professor of English, with tenure, University of Michigan-Flint
2015 – Present	Director of the Marian E. Wright Writing Center, University of Michigan-Flint
2013 – 2015	Interim Director, University Outreach, University of Michigan-Flint
2005 – 2013	Director of the Marian E. Wright Writing Center, University of Michigan-Flint
2011	Acting Director of the Writing Program, University of Michigan-Flint

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Blumner is an outstanding teacher of rhetoric and composition who has an extremely well-developed, thoughtful, and effective pedagogy. He provides informative and supportive syllabi in which relevant information is easily accessible to promote student success. Professor Blumner has an outstanding record of meeting students at their level, whether in a first-year developmental writing course or a graduate course designed to prepare students to teach rhetoric and composition. He is never content with his pedagogy and always strives to promote agency and self-directed learning in his highly engaging and interactive classroom. His average score across all student evaluations since his initial promotion and tenure, on the item, “Overall the instructor was an excellent teacher” is 4.81 out of 5.0. Not surprisingly, Professor Blumner is also an organized and student-centered advisor who contributes to student success through the advising process and through deep and thoughtful participation in assessment processes at the department level. Professor Blumner was the university 2009 recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award and he continues to shine as a teacher and mentor.

Research – Professor Blumner is a recognized scholar on writing center pedagogy, writing across the curriculum, and most recently, on writing center collaborations between secondary and post-secondary institutions. His 2016 co-edited collection with Pam Childers entitled, WAC Partnerships Between Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions, has been referred to as “an essential contribution to the field of writing center scholarship.” In addition to this seminal work, Professor Blumner has produced three double-blind refereed articles, 17 conference presentations (six with student collaborators), and creative writing in the form of Haiku, since his promotion to associate professor, with tenure. Several of Professor Blumner’s previously published anthologies remain “bedrock texts in writing center tutor

education courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels,” testifying to the longevity of his work and his broadening influence on his field of study. He is an extremely valuable member of the Department of English whose ability to weave together his service work as the writing center director with his teaching and scholarship is remarkable.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Books:

Blumner, Jacob S. and Childers, Pam. WAC Partnerships Between Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions, Parlour Press, 2016.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Blumner, Jacob S. and Childers, Pamela (2011). “Building Better Bridges: What Makes High School-College WAC Collaborations Work?” *The WAC Journal*, November 2011.

Published Chapters and Articles:

Blumner, Jacob S. (2016). “Introduction to WAC and Partnerships That Cross Academic Levels and Disciplines.” In WAC Partnerships Between Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions, Jacob Blumner and Pam Childers (eds.), Parlour Press, 2016.

Blumner, Jacob S. (2016). “What We Have Learned About WAC Partnerships and Their Futures.” In WAC Partnerships Between Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions, Jacob Blumner and Pam Childers (eds.), Parlour Press, 2016.

Blumner, Jacob S. (2011). “A Writing Center-Education Department Collaboration: Training Teachers to Work One-on-One.” In The St. Martin’s Sourcebook for Writing Tutors, Fourth Edition, Christina Murphy and Steve Sherwood (eds.), Bedford/ St. Martin’s Press, 2011.

Conference Presentations

Blumner, Jacob S., Childers, Pamela, and Jansen, Kirsten. “Creating WAC Partnerships Across Academic Levels.” International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan, July 2016.

Blumner, Jacob S., Linden, David and Dawson, Vicky. “Anatomy of a Tutor: Soft Skills for Effective Human Interaction.” International Writing Centers Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 2015.

Blumner, Jacob S. and Childers, Pamela. “Secondary-Postsecondary Writing Center Partnerships: Working Together for the Good of All.” Canadian Writing Centres Conference, Ottawa, Canada, May 2015.

Blumner, Jacob S. “A Tale of Adolescence and Existential Crisis.” Marian E. Wright Writing Center Conference, Flint, Michigan, March 2015.

Blumner, Jacob S., Story, Julie, Gutierrez, Daniel and Childers, Pamela. “Crossing Academic Boundaries: High School-College Writing Center Collaborations.” International Writing Centers Association Conference, San Diego, California, November 2012.

Blumner, Jacob S. and Smith, Trixie. “Past, Present, Future: Creating and Revising High School-College WAC Collaborations for Success.” International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, Savannah, Georgia, June 2012.

Blumner, Jacob S., Boehm, Diane, Racic-Klotz, Helen, Crawford, Mary Ann and Perdue, Sherry Wynn. “Writing Center Data: What Do We Need and How Should We Use It?” East Central Writing Centers Association Conference, Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 2011.

Service – Professor Blumner’s record of service and leadership is extensive across his profession, the community, university, college, and department. Professionally, he has served as an editorial reviewer for four prominent journals in his field as well as secretary to the Michigan Writing Association for eight years. The extent of Professor Blumner’s service to the university, college, and his department is too extensive to fully enumerate, but it includes multiple search committees, the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching Advisory Board, a departmental assessment committee, and the college’s Academic Standards, Curriculum, and Executive Committees. Professor Blumner has distinguished his leadership through positions on the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee for Budget and Strategic Planning and by serving for two years as the interim director of University Outreach, the arm of the university focused on strengthening community connections and applied research. In each of these roles, Professor Blumner has demonstrated a commitment to careful consideration of issues and a student-centric approach to his decision making. Perhaps most telling of his impact on campus is that he is known to almost everyone on campus and he is deeply respected for the leadership and service he continues to provide.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “...I judge his most substantial scholarly contribution to be the 2016 edited collection (with Pam Childers) on WAC Partnerships... ...Jacob’s case offers high-quality scholarship that makes important contributions to the field. I expect that he will continue to publish and to be an important contributor in the field.”

Reviewer (B): “...I count one book – in a prestigious book series – and seven peer-reviewed publications ... since Blumner’s promotion to Associate Professor at UM-Flint. Even at a research university, that record would be adequate – given the extremely heavy teaching load at UM-Flint, it borders on miraculous.”

Reviewer (C): “In particular, the two volumes Professor Blumner edited with Robert Barnett have been foundational to the field, and the reprinting of his article, ‘A Writing Center-Education Department Collaboration’ in the hugely influential St. Martin’s Sourcebook for Writing Tutors in 2011 further secured his prominence... Professor Blumner’s service contributions to the field are just as remarkable... I am impressed most of all by his focus on undergraduate student research, particularly in terms of his collaboration with students in presentation at major conferences as well as a 2007 publication in *ATD*. Such nurturing in students as knowledge-producers in the university is a hallmark of excellence in writing center administration.”

Reviewer (D): “I believe WAC Partnerships has the potential to be an important touchstone in the field... ...I think it is striking new ground and will be frequently cited in writing across the curriculum scholarship and will also provide models for new cross-level partnerships.”

Reviewer (E): “An additional indication of the level and success of Blumner’s work is in his international, national and regional conference presentations... His career as a teacher-researcher tracks those of other senior practitioner-scholars in the field, and he has already carved a path to future work across the curriculum through his collaborations with nursing and high school networks.”

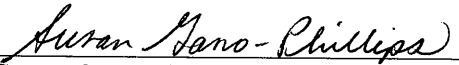
Reviewer (F): “Overall, he has averaged two presentations a year since 2007, and of those 16 presentations, 11 took place at national venues. The topics of his presentations demonstrate his active, ongoing mentorship of graduate students in addition to his prominence as a scholar whose work attracts the attention of other writing center and WAC researchers at their professional meetings.”

Reviewer (G): "...his work is significant and relevant, and that it is well known in the field. His co-edited texts, the Longman Guide Writing Center Theory and Practice and Writing Centers and Writing Across the Curriculum Programs: Building Interdisciplinary Partnerships, are bedrock texts in writing center tutor education courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels... His newest edited book, titled WAC Partnerships Between Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions, is co-edited with the foremost scholar and voice on secondary writing centers, published at the highly regarded ParLOUR Press, and an essential contribution to the field of writing center scholarship... Regardless of the pedagogical or programmatic issue he is publishing or presenting on, his work carefully explores existing scholarship on the issue, collects data (institutional; cross-institutional), models best practices, and argues for what is best for students."

Summary of Recommendation:

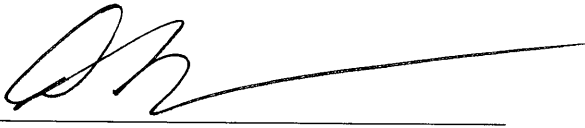
Professor Jacob Blumner is an influential and productive scholar in his discipline who has demonstrated outstanding collaboration in his scholarly pursuits, his extensive service activities, and in his teaching. His expertise in writing center pedagogy and writing across the curriculum is well-respected in his field and he is influencing generations of writing center professionals through several of his seminal works. Professor Blumner is a tremendous contributor of service across the university and his profession and he has shown growing leadership in a wide variety of areas. His teaching is exemplary and he is not content with the status quo, always searching for and redeveloping curriculum to meet the changing needs of his students. Both inside the classroom and in mentorship, research supervision, advising, and assessment activities, Professor Blumner demonstrates an unwavering commitment to excellence in student learning. With enthusiasm and great pride, I recommend that Jacob S. Blumner be promoted to professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

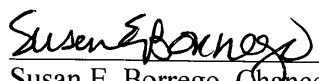


Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Douglas G. Knerr, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2017