

## PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

### University of Michigan–Dearborn College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Department of Humanities

Gloria A. House, associate professor of humanities, without tenure, and associate professor of African and African American studies, without tenure, Department of Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of humanities, with tenure, and professor of African and African American studies, with tenure, Department of Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

#### Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1986	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
M.A.	1969	University of California, Berkeley
B.A.	1961	University of California, Berkeley

#### Professional Record:

2006 - present	Director, African and African American Studies Program, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2004 - present	Associate Professor, without tenure, Humanities and African American Studies, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2003	King/Parks/Chavez Visiting Professor University of Michigan-Dearborn
1998	Professor Emerita, Wayne State University (1969-1998)

#### Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor House's teaching and pedagogical contributions are rated as excellent. Her teaching as assessed through multiple measures: student evaluations, pedagogical leadership, the addition of new courses, participation in MALS and the Honors Program, cross college initiatives, mentoring, and programming. In each of these arenas, her work was exemplary. Her student evaluations are uniformly positive and her teaching is enriched by her scholarship, poetry and activism. Both her delight in ideas and her commitment to human rights issues are integral to every interaction. She is very adept at creating an environment for learning and academic success. Since her arrival in 2003, Professor House has introduced new courses in both MALS and in the Honors program. One of her MALS students, whose work concentrated on the life, work, and personal craft of Julia Alvarez, has had a paper published in *Confluence: The Journal of Graduate Liberal Studies*. Professor House's teaching and pedagogy is influential beyond the classroom. She has been working for the past year on a collaborative educational initiative involving independent schools in the Detroit area that focus on African-centered curriculums and the School of Education. The collective efforts are aimed at increasing minority enrollments at UM-Dearborn. She also proposed the successful partnership between the Organization of African Centered Educators and Schools and UM-Dearborn that has resulted in a \$1 million NSF grant to faculty in Natural Sciences to enhance technology skills and explore critical issues in environmental studies in three African Centered schools. Additionally, she is an active contributor and steering committee member in the Difficult Dialogues initiatives and in the Conversations on Race.

Research: Professor House's research is rated as excellent. She is a public intellectual, a prose essayist and literary critic, arts and culture editor, as well as a poet of considerable national and international standing. Her work reflects and influences local, national, and international perspectives on space and environment, critical race theory, and cultural studies. Through both her prose and poetry the struggles and aspirations of common people, often African American, are given intellectual, cultural, and ideological expression.

Professor House is best known as a poet who has published three highly acclaimed, original books of poetry. She has also published numerous poems (65 specifically) in anthologized texts or journals. Professor House has been invited to read her original poetry in over thirty eight different venues. In addition to her works of poetry, she has published thirteen academic articles of literary and social criticism, eighteen newspaper articles, two translations of books from French-to-English, and presented in scholarly forums twenty times since coming to UM-Dearborn.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Gloria House, "We'll Never Turn Back." *Hand on the Freedom Plow*. (forthcoming) ed. Martha Noonan, University of Illinois Press.
- Gloria House, "Most Cruel, All Our Land is Scarred with Terror: Reflections on the Art Work of Willie Bester," *Apartheid Laboratory*, ed. James Patten. Windsor: The Art Gallery of Windsor. (invited article for Art Gallery of Windsor book, currently in press)
- Gloria House, "The Internationalization of Consciousness: Memoirs of a 1960s Activist." *Against the Current*. July/August, 2007. pp4, 5.
- Gloria House, *Poet in the House!* (an anthology of writing by Detroit poets, lead author and editor) Broadside Press. 2005.
- Gloria House, *A Different Image: The Legacy of Broadside Press*. House, Weatherston, and Ward. Detroit: Broadside Press/University of Detroit Mercy Press. 2004.
- Gloria House, *Shrines*. Chicago: Third World Press. 2004.

Service: Professor House's service is rated as excellent. Her service is consistently substantive and meaningful. Professor House's service reflects what Nancy Cantor has called "scholarship in action," connecting the theory of her work through applied channels. She is the current director of the African and African American Studies Program. She also serves on the Advisory Committee of the Center for Arab and Arab American Studies and the CAAS Summer Instructional Planning Committee. In addition she is a member of the Executive Committee of the American Studies Program, the Center for the Study of Religion, and on the Advisory Board of Women's and Gender Studies. Professor House is a fixture in the metropolitan community where she has served on the Board of Directors of the MI Coalition for Human Rights and has been a member of numerous community organizations.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "There is clarity of purpose and focus in the scholarship and academic life of Dr. Gloria House. Beginning with her activism at Berkeley in the early sixties and her work with SNCC during the heights of the Civil Rights Movement, and her work in publishing and as a scholar in the years since, Dr. House has developed an ideological engagement with Black

Studies that permeates everything she does, even as she contributes in quite remarkable ways to her various fields of professional life: that of a scholar, an editor, an academic and a poet.”

Reviewer B: “Dr. House is an outstanding prose writer and critic as well as an exceptionally effective poet. She is an acute observer of people and events and possesses a breath of experience and human sympathy that are truly remarkable and refreshing... ‘Never Turn Back’ is another remarkable contribution... The style is direct, evocative, and engaging. It is the most successful attempt that I have read from anyone of her generation of what it was like to be alive and engaged in the struggle in the South as a young person. It will undoubtedly become not only an important part of the twentieth-century African American archive, but will also be treasured by those engaged in struggle in our own time.”

Reviewer C: “...an extremely active scholar, poet, and teacher, and her impact extends well beyond the Detroit area, to Europe and South Africa. I am also impressed by her dedication and investment in community education, something not readily the case for scholars outside of a School of Education.”

Reviewer D: “I have known [Ms. House] as teacher, as poet, as scholar and writer, and as an emerging force in poetry, and literature. It is my judgment that in each of these capacities she has not only distinguished herself but also the study and profession of American and African-American poetry and literature.”


Reviewer E: “Even if Dr. House had made no further contribution to poetry and scholarship, after the work of Broadside Press, her distinguished reputation would be secure. But there is much more.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Gloria House is a nationally and internationally recognized poet, social and literary critic, and essayist. She is an excellent teacher and a groundbreaking researcher in the emerging discipline of spatial studies. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Gloria A. House for promotion to professor of humanities, with tenure, and professor of African and African American studies, with tenure, Department of Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Kathryn Anderson-Levitt  
Dean  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little  
Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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