

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Mathematics

Mehrdad Simkani, associate professor of mathematics, with tenure, Department of Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of mathematics, with tenure, Department of Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1997	University of South Florida
B.A.	1983	University of South Florida

Professional Record:

1994 to Present	Associate Professor of Mathematics, with tenure, University of Michigan-Flint
2002 to 2006	Chair, Department of Mathematics, University of Michigan-Flint
1988 to 1994	Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of Michigan-Flint
1987 to 1988	Visiting Assistant Professor, Oakland University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Simkani is a versatile, dedicated teacher, with broad experience across a wide range of courses in the mathematics curriculum. Since 1988 he has taught more than twenty-five different courses, not including independent studies. He has engaged in course and program revision and is actively involved in academic assessment. Peer evaluations are positive. Professor Simkani's passion for mathematics is evidenced also by positive student evaluations in courses taken by students at all levels of their undergraduate education.

Research – Professor Simkani has eight publications since 1986. Three additional works are in preparation or circulation. He has nineteen presentations, most at national or international conferences. External reviews attest to the quality and significance of Professor Simkani's scholarship, which is actively cited by his peers.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Refereed Publications:

Simkani, M. "Sufficient Conditions For Propagation of Convergence," *Rendiconti del Circolo Matematico di Palermo*, Serie II, Numero 68 (2002), pp. 837-843.

- Simkani, M. "On Propagation of Convergence," *Approximation Theory & Its Applications*, 16:1 (2000), pp. 36-40.
- Simkani, M. "Cubic Equation From Babylon to Newton," *Proceedings of the First Iranian Mathematics Education Conference*, Isfahan, Iran, August 27-29, 1996.
- Simkani, M. "Local Limiting Behavior of the Zeros of Approximating Polynomials," *Applied Numerical Mathematics*, 14 (1994), pp. 451-456.
- Simkani, M. "Overconvergence and Zeros of Sequences of Rational Functions," *Approximation Theory & Its Applications*, 9:4, December 1993, pp. 9-20.
- Simkani, M. and Reczek K. "On Rational Approximation of Meromorphic Functions," in *Constructive Theory of Functions '91* (K. G. Ivanov, P. P. Petrushev, B. H. Sendov, editors), Publishing House of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria, 1992, pp. 243-248.
- Simkani, M., Blatt, H.-P., and Saff, E. B. "Jentzsch-Szegő Type Theorems For the Zeros of Best Approximants," *Journal of the London Mathematical Society*, series 2, volume 38 (1988), pp. 307-316.
- Simkani, M. "Accumulation of Zeros of Approximating and Interpolating Polynomials," *Approximation Theory V* (C. K. Chui, L. L. Schumaker, and J. D. Ward, editors), Academic Press, Orlando, Florida, 1986, pp. 555-558.

Refereed Publications in Process:

- Simkani, M. "Rational Series," under construction.
- Simkani, M. "A Unified Theory for Rational Approximation in the Extended Complex Domain," to be submitted.
- Simkani, M. "On a Theorem of Bojadžiev," submitted to *Analysis in Theory and Applications* (2007).

Service – Professor Simkani has an outstanding record of engaged, active and committed service. He chaired his department for nearly four years and currently chairs its assessment committee. He serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and is an elected representative to the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee for the University. He also has significant community engagement, particularly at local and regional schools.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A):

"The stature of journals and of conferences is no greater than the contributors, editors, and organizers. In these Prof. Simkani is in the best of company."

Reviewer (B):

"Among the earlier papers of Dr. Simkani, I would say that his first paper and the paper he co-authored with Blatt and Saff have become classic in the study of zero distributions of the best (or near best) polynomial approximation ..."

Reviewer (C):

"[Dr. Simkani's] ... published research is widely known and highly respected."

Reviewer (D):

"[Dr. Simkani's] ... work on overconvergence and propagation of convergence has a potential to find applications outside of mathematics in such areas as image inpainting."

Reviewer (E):

"I believe that [Dr. Simkani's] work is of high quality and there is evidence of research that will continue."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Simkani is a loyal and committed colleague who has met or exceeded College requirements for promotion. Given exceptional records in teaching and service, and a significant record of refereed publication, we concur with the Executive Committee and unanimously recommend that Mehrdad Simkani be promoted to the rank of professor of mathematics, with tenure, Department of Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:



D. J. Trela, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Vahid Lotfi, Interim Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Jack Kay, Interim Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2008