

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan-Dearborn  
College Of Arts, Sciences, and Letters  
Department of Language, Culture and Communication

Approved by the Regents  
May 14, 2009

Timothy O. Kiska, assistant professor of communications, Department of Language, Culture and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of communications, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture and Communication, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
M.A.	1995	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
B.A.	1980	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Professional Record:

2003 to present	Assistant Professor of Communications, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2001 to 2003	Lecturer in Communication, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2000 to 2001	Adjunct Lecturer in Communication, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1987 to 2002	Columnist, Detroit News
1970 to 1987	Copyboy, Reporter, Automotive Writer, Detroit Free Press

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kiska is rated as excellent in teaching. This assessment is based on a variety of indicators. Student evaluations have been consistently very positive, with numerical ratings primarily in the two highest categories. He is highly valued by his students for the professional experience he brings to the classroom; for the genuine concern he shows for their development as journalists; and for the myriad of opportunities he creates for their growth, both inside and outside the classroom. Students give him strong praise for his preparedness; for his ability to make the material come alive with stories; for the respect he accords to students; and for his extensive knowledge of the field. Peer observations corroborate that he is a most engaging and knowledgeable teacher who is able to skillfully tailor the format of class sessions to suit his learning objectives. Peers also comment on his use of a variety of formats and his ability to cultivate an open, relaxed atmosphere conducive to the meaningful exchange of ideas. It is noted that through both personal example and teaching style, he is able to truly inspire his students to succeed. Professor Kiska is unique in bridging the world of journalism and academia in such a way as to create multiple opportunities for his students to practice the craft and glimpse the workings of journalistic institutions.

Research: Professor Kiska is rated significantly capable in research. His peers recognize that he provides a very important bridge between the world of journalism and academia in his scholarship. They also note the pioneering nature of his work on the history of Detroit television journalism, best represented in his book *A Newscast for the Masses: The History of Detroit Television Journalism*. Because of the book's compelling analyses of local TV journalistic development, Wayne State University Press will be working with the Detroit Historical Museum

to market the book in conjunction with an exhibit on Detroit television. Professor Kiska's enduring interest in local press and television history as well as his interest in the analysis of exit polls promises that he will continue to conduct research and publish in these areas. Of note also is the way in which his research, teaching and service are of one piece, providing a very positive example of the "teacher-scholar" model.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Kiska, Tim. *A Newscast for the Masses: A History of Detroit Television News*. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2009), 234 pages.

Kiska, Tim, *From Soupy To Nuts: A History of Detroit Television*, (Momentum Books, Royal Oak, MI, 2007), 232 pages.

Kiska, Tim. "Who Favors Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide? The Vote on Michigan's Proposal B." *Journal of Politics and Life Sciences.*, 20(2):155-163, 2005.

Kiska, Tim. "A Long Slow Climb: Women In Sportswriting," *Newspaper Research Journal* (submitted 11/2008).

Service: Professor Kiska is rated significantly capable in service. He has provided dedicated and meaningful service at the level of the discipline, department, campus, profession and community. By developing key courses in the journalism curriculum and attracting a large student following, he has strengthened the journalism area tremendously. His most outstanding contributions have been at the campus level. He played a central role in hosting the Republican Presidential Debate on the campus, thereby creating numerous opportunities for students and faculty to be involved in and to learn about media and the political process. He has also advised the student newspaper for the last several years and has dramatically improved its level of professionalism. He delivered political commentary on the local news stations on election days between November 2004 and January 2008. He also designed and conducted exit polls during the elections. He has involved students directly in many of these activities, creating wonderful learning opportunities for them. Professor Kiska has also enhanced the visibility of the university through these efforts.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "...I was impressed with the quality of the historical research that Professor Kiska has demonstrated. The work is an illuminating account of the development of local television news in Detroit. ...It does attest to Professor Kiska's immediate and long-term scholarly prospects."

Reviewer B: "This work [*A Newscast for the Masses*] is an impressive testament to Professor Kiska's scholarship. In it, he aggressively mines primary sources for their recollections of the trajectory of television news in the city and offers an in-depth study that provides important insights into the industry at large."

Reviewer C: "*A Newscast for the Masses* is a compellingly told story of electronic journalism in Detroit. Tim combines extensive research with his own deep experience in reporting on radio and television for the Detroit papers."

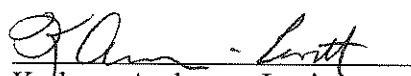
Reviewer D: "I consider it remarkable that the candidate produced a book as comprehensive in content as the book manuscript while shouldering a three-course-per-semester teaching load."

That reflects enormous dedication and earnestness of intent. In my opinion, the candidate would continue to develop more than adequately as a scholar..."

Reviewer E: "I doubt that anyone in Detroit or Detroit area is more knowledgeable about these areas [print, radio, and television journalism in Detroit and Michigan] than Prof. Kiska. This knowledge no doubt adds substantially to his teaching at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. ...I was much impressed by this work [*A Newscast for the Masses*] and read it in a single, long session."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Kiska has gained high praise from his students and colleagues as an educator. The wealth of knowledge and experience of journalism that he brings to the classroom is truly highly valued. He has made key contributions to the campus by bridging the worlds of journalism and academia. He has been instrumental in organizing events that have increased the visibility of the campus and have provided incredible learning opportunities for our students. In addition, he has done substantial historical work on electronic journalism in Detroit that clearly establishes him as an expert in the field. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Timothy O. Kiska for promotion to associate professor of communications, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture and Communication, 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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