PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Julie E. Boland, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, and associate professor of linguistics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, and professor of linguistics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1991	University of Rochester
M.A.	1990	University of Rochester
A.B.	1986	Washington University at St. Louis

Professional Record:

2006 – 2007	Visiting Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto
2001 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology and Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan
2000 – 2001	Associate Professor, Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2000	Assistant Professor, Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
1998 – 1999	Assistant Research Professor, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science, Rutgers University
1991 – 1998	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Boland has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses at the interface of linguistics and psychology. She has created a series of courses that provide a thoughtful progression of theoretical, empirical, and research-design experiences for students and that form the core of the psycholinguistics curriculum in both departments. As reflected in her syllabi and the response from her students, she puts tremendous energy, enthusiasm, and thoughtful pedagogy into her classes. She has supervised or mentored sixteen graduate students as well as a large number of undergraduate students, who were participants in independent study courses, carrying out honors theses, or part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

Research – Professor Boland's research requires expertise in two distinct fields and this interdisciplinary approach is central to addressing her research questions. She is particularly well-known for her critical analysis of the literature, the logic and creativity of her empirical studies, and the applicability of the findings. She has developed and carefully validated methods that have dramatically improved her research conclusions. Each journal article is a multi-experimental study that reaches important and often surprising conclusions.

<u>Recent and Significant Publications</u>:
"Dominance and context effects on activation of alternative homophone meanings," with L. Chen, *Memory & Cognition*, 36, 2008, pp. 1306-1323.
"Cultural variation in eye movements during scene perception," with H. F. Chua and R. Nisbett, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 102, 2005, pp. 12629-12633.
"Visual arguments," *Cognition*, 95, 2005, pp. 237-274.
"Understanding the constraints on syntactic generation: Lexical bias and discourse congruency effects on eye movements," with A. Blodgett, *Journal of Memory and Language*, 45, 2001, pp. 391-411.

<u>Service</u> – Professor Boland's service record is exemplary. Her contributions, both nationally and in local environments, demonstrate her leadership and commitment. Departmental service has been divided equally between her two departments, and in all of these roles she has been masterful in meeting the needs of the position, and in gathering faculty to work toward their mutual goals. She has accumulated a record of service to the profession that identifies her as an important colleague within the field. High regard for her research has led to editorial responsibilities for two journals and service on the editorial boards of two other journals.

<u>External Reviews</u>:
Reviewer (A)
"After her seminal work in the 1990s...Dr. Boland went on to contribute to the field of psycholinguistics, straddling the boundaries that often separate psychologists from linguists. ...Dr. Boland has been a very solid contributor to the field. She has made very important and influential contributions..."

Reviewer (B)
"Dr. Boland's research is in areas that stand squarely at the center of psycholinguistics. ... The research is important because of its implications for our understanding of how different kinds of information are brought to bear during language comprehension. ... Boland understands the debate well. She approaches it with the care that is typical of all her research and with an objectivity that distinguishes her..."

Reviewer (C)
"...her recent research on the syntactic and semantic processing in Chinese sentence comprehension is particularly noteworthy for two reasons. First, conducting cross-language research in distinctively different languages to identify universal and language-specific processes...is an area of growing research interest across the world. Second, sentence comprehension in Chinese has scarcely been studied by psycholinguists..."

Reviewer (D)
"In my opinion, there is a lot to value in the theoretical positions she has developed and articulated over the years. ...Julie is a talented, influential researcher with a nice streak of theoretical independence and genuine curiosity about how language works."

Reviewer (E)

"Julie's empirical work…has been characterized by an abiding concentration on theoretical relevance. …her willingness to attack fundamental issues of theory and to integrate theory and experiment marks Julie Boland as a real scientist. … She is an excellent example of a true psycholinguist, one who can be simultaneously a real psychologist and a real linguist."
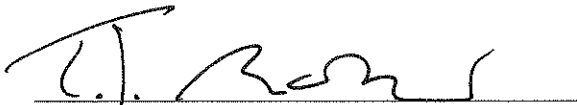
Reviewer (F)

"Dr. Boland is to my mind an exemplary psycholinguist, extremely professional in her approach, and her research area is perfectly placed between linguistics and psychology to have relevance for both constituencies at the University of Michigan. … In her career she has addressed a very full range of topics central to our field… She has also made use of a wide range of experimental methods… …she is respected by the international research community as someone whose procedures meet the highest standards and whose results can be trusted."

Reviewer (G)

"…Boland is one of the top twenty researchers internationally in the field of sentence processing, out of hundreds who work in this area. … Dr. Boland has done important and influential work. Her status in the field is evidenced by her role as associate editor at *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review* and her position on the editorial boards of some of the top journals that publish psycholinguistic work."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Boland is an outstanding researcher and teacher, and is committed to service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommends that Associate Professor Julie E. Boland be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, with tenure, and professor of linguistics, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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