

May 14, 2009

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

Vincent L. Hutchings, associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts [also being promoted to research professor, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1997	University of California at Los Angeles
M.A.	1992	University of California at Los Angeles
B.A.	1988	San Jose State University

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Scholar, Yale University
1998 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
1996 – present	Research Associate Professor, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research
1996 – 2009	Assistant Research Scientist, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Hutchings is a strong instructor at the undergraduate level. His courses are well planned, ambitious in scope, and demanding; students rate them as good or very good. His teaching record at the graduate level is exceptional in two distinct ways. First, graduate students uniformly laud his courses as among the best they have ever taken, the sorts of courses that change the way they approach political science. Second, outside of the classroom he has served as an advisor and mentor for a strikingly large and prominent group of scholars. This success can be attributed to the extraordinary time, patience, and pedagogical skill that he invests in these students. He is truly a gifted and committed teacher of graduate students.

Research – Professor Hutchings' research covers a variety of topics central to political science, including race, the media, public opinion, and political psychology. His work is providing scholars with new ways to think about the role that race plays in American politics. Some of this work has examined the ways in which racial cues in political advertisements influence voters' perceptions of candidates. Other studies look at the relationship between the size of a legislator's black constituency and his or her support for issues relevant to blacks. Importantly, his research since promotion to associate professor demonstrates a new and very different intellectual agenda, one in which there is much more attention to the media, campaigns, and how voters are affected by and react to these aspects of politics. The study of blacks has been expanded to include the study of whites and other ethnic minorities, providing a much richer picture of what is meant by race in politics.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Results from experimentation: Racial priming in political campaigns,” with A. E. Jardina, *Annual Review of Political Science*, forthcoming 2009.

“Is a worried citizen a good citizen? Emotions, political information seeking, and learning via the internet,” with N. Valentino, et al., *Political Psychology*, 29(2), 2008, pp. 247-273.

“The compassion strategy: Race and the gender gap in American politics,” with N. Valentino, et al., *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 68(4), 2004, pp. 512-541.

Public Opinion and Democratic Accountability, Princeton University Press, 2003.

Service – Professor Hutchings has compiled an outstanding record of service. Since promotion to associate professor, he has served first as a member, and then chair, of the Graduate Admissions Committee. He has been especially effective in identifying and recruiting underrepresented minorities, and then working tirelessly to help them succeed once they arrive. He has taken on several service roles for the university, including the ISR Policy Committee and the Michigan Press Board. Finally, he has provided noteworthy service to the discipline. He has served on the Midwest Political Science Association Council, on two editorial boards (*American Politics Research* and *Journal of Politics*), and he co-chaired the Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession for the American Political Science Association, among others.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...there is no doubt that Professor Hutchings would be on most lists of the leading scholars of racial politics and public opinion in the cohort. When I run across a publication of his I make sure to read it and I do so without being confident in advance of the result.”

Reviewer (B)

“There are only a few political scientists who are incorporating experimental approaches into political behavior research and doing it well. I think Professor Hutchings is among the very best scholars who are doing this type of research. All of his experimental work is imaginative and creative.”

Reviewer (C)

“He is the kind of colleague—an active, mid-career scholar; an intellectual leader in his area of research; an institution-builder and strong proponent of collaborative research efforts engaging teams of faculty and graduate students—who could anchor a broader strategy to raise a department’s profile in the field of race and politics. Hutchings is a prize and fully deserving of promotion to the rank of full professor.”

Reviewer (D)

“In a nutshell, Hutchings’ work is rigorous, creative, and focused on important questions in the discipline. He is innovative in his research methods, clever both in designing original data collection projects and in using existing data to address his research questions, and consistently attentive to the possibility of alternative hypotheses.”

Reviewer (E)

“...the quality is high, the topics important, and the engagement with questions of broad interest to political scientists is manifest. I predict that Vince will continue to be a productive, entrepreneurial, interesting scholar for many years to come – and one well worth your efforts to keep as a colleague.”

Reviewer (F)

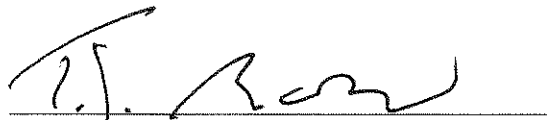
“Professor Hutchings is a top scholar in the fields of race and politics, and issue publics and public opinion. His work is of high quality and addresses important and significant questions. His work engages important debates in the literature and he is an active participant in several.”

Reviewer (G)

“I can think of only a couple of scholars of racial politics who achieve Hutchings’ combination of wide intellectual range, high methodological rigor, and reliable record of generating research papers and books and obtaining grants.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hutchings is an accomplished and influential scholar. He is a fine teacher, an extraordinary mentor, and a superb colleague. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Vincent L. Hutchings be promoted to the rank of professor of political science, 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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