

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

Anne Leslie Curzan, associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, associate professor of linguistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of education, without tenure, School of Education, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature, with tenure, professor of linguistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of education, without tenure, School of Education.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1998	University of Michigan
M.A.	1995	University of Michigan
B.A.	1991	Yale University

Professional Record:

2009 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan
2007	Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan
2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature and School of Education, University of Michigan
2003 – 2004	Assistant Professor, School of Education, University of Michigan
2002 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
1998 – 2002	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Washington

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Curzan is the kind of professor who changes the way her discipline is taught, and who in the process can influence the way society thinks about language. She has had great success with classes large and small, and at all levels of the curriculum. Besides being honored with a Thurnau Professorship, she received the Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2011. Professor Curzan’s role as a mentor to graduate students is as strong as her contributions to undergraduate education. She has chaired or co-chaired seven completed dissertations and served on committees that have seen sixteen dissertations to completion. Student evaluations at all levels consistently place her in the highest quartile.

Research – Professor Curzan’s internationally acclaimed research, for which she received a Henry Russell Award, extends from the history of the English language to language ideology to corpus linguistics to English language pedagogy. Her current book project, Fixing English, explores the continuing role of prescriptivism in the history of the English language, strategically using case studies to show how institutionalized prescriptive efforts have affected the development of English. This will be an important book for its field, and it will likely become the go-to book for dealing with the politically charged question of “proper English.” Professor Curzan’s work with textbooks also deserves mention. How English Works, now in its third edition, has had a transformative effect on the teaching of English linguistics. In addition, she has published twelve articles, book chapters, or columns since her promotion in 2004.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Fixing English: Prescriptivism and Change in the History of English, under contract with Cambridge University Press.

How English Works: A Linguistic Introduction, with M. Adams, Pearson/Longman, 1st ed. 2006, 2nd ed. 2009, 3rd ed. 2012.

Contours of English and English Language Studies, with M. Adams, University of Michigan Press, 2011.

Studies in the History of the English Language II: Unfolding Conversations, with K. Emmons, Mouton de Gruyter, 2004.

Service – Professor Curzan has a strong service record that includes revision of English’s undergraduate curriculum, developing and maintaining a model for supporting 120 instructors in the writing program (more than 6,000 students each year), and serving on more than a dozen departmental and university committees. Outside of the university community she co-edited a prestigious journal and reviewed manuscripts and proposals for multiple journals, presses, and foundations.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“...I am struck by the highly balanced nature of her academic profile. She has been able to divide her time between research, teaching, and service to the community, both the academia and the wider public, in an exemplary manner.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Anne Curzan is one of the dozen or so scholars active who – through their work – have shaped a linguistics of English for the 21st century. She has achieved much, and her dynamism as a scholar shows no sign of abating.”

Reviewer (C)

“Prof. Curzan’s academic interests and expertise are quite diverse: she is now one of the leading, probably *the* leading authority, on issues of grammatical gender in the history of English, she has made her mark as a researcher in the history and practice of lexicography, corpus linguistics, and sociolinguistics, and she has initiated pedagogical research and writing of great practical value for students and colleagues.”

Reviewer (D)

“...[Curzan] has gained high international visibility... ..her professional career shows a rising tendency and there can be no question of her excellence in research and teaching.”

Reviewer (E)

“Both in terms of teaching (and pedagogical principle) and in terms of research, she has already made an impressive contribution to scholarly activity – she is thoughtful, perceptive, rigorous, and really engaged in the task of making students – and colleagues – think.”

Reviewer (F)

“Professor Curzan’s commitment to her academic field of study and to the profession at large is reflected both in her publication output and in her pedagogical articles, as well as in her discussions of professional issues... The breadth of her writing, her productivity, and the quality of her research are truly impressive.”

Reviewer (G)

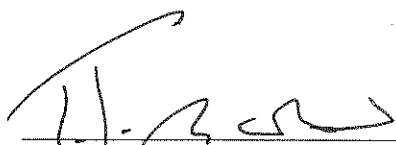
“How English Works achieves what no other English linguistics textbook has been able to accomplish: it works to change undergraduates’ attitudes toward English and its study while at the same time increasing their knowledge of historical and contemporary language processes. ...her every accomplishment suggests that she is an ideal candidate to assume the rank of full professor.”

Reviewer (H)

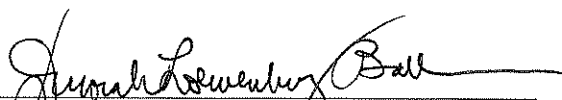
“I fully expect that the projected Fixing English will be enormously influential...in shifting approaches to investigation in historical sociolinguistics and historical linguistics more generally. ...the book will almost certainly find a much wider audience than the typical scholarly monograph.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Curzan has amassed an impressive record of scholarship, teaching, and service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Anne Leslie Curzan be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, with tenure, professor of linguistics, without tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of education, without tenure, in the School of Education.



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



Deborah Loewenberg Ball
William H. Payne Collegiate Professor,
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, and Dean
School of Education

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