

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
Department of Social Sciences

Mitchel A. Sollenberger, assistant professor of political science, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2006	Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
M.A.	2001	Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
B.A.	2000	Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT

Professional Record:

2008- present	Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2007-2008	Visiting Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Director, George Mason University
2006-2007	Instructor, Bowling Green State University
2001-2004	Analyst in American National Government Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Sollenberger has been rated as excellent in teaching for making an exceptional contribution to the curriculum in the areas of public law and the presidency. He has taught six different courses, one introductory level, four upper level, and one graduate level. New classes in National Security and Freedom of Religion were just approved. His expertise, adaptability and relevance energize his teaching. He mixes lectures, online assignments, and discussions of current events. He posts lectures on c-tools for students who were absent or need to review. This is especially valuable for those who need structure. He has supervised five independent studies on topics ranging from entertainment law to war power. Students consistently give him very high marks on evaluation forms. Their written comments show that they view him as serious, challenging, relevant, and knowledgeable. He maintains rigorous standards while reaching a wide range of students.

Research: Professor Sollenberger has been rated as excellent in scholarship. He has generated an impressive body of published work that reflects a high standard of excellence. His fields are national institutions (Congress, Presidency, federal courts) and the interactions between them, i.e., separation of powers. Before coming to UM-Dearborn he had eighteen publications. Since his arrival he has produced three books (one in press), five academic articles, four book chapters, and twelve pieces in publications such as *Politico*, *Roll Call*, and The Encyclopedia of U. S. Political History. His writings address some of the most controversial issues of public debate, taking him beyond the academy into an area of informed discourse. His article on “blue slips” (whereby Senators put holds on judicial appointments) is based on unique data not previously

released by the Judiciary Committee. It makes a significant contribution to understanding the constitutional concept of “advise and consent.” His articles on Executive Privilege go to the core of executive versus congressional power. These publications are scholarly and exceptionally relevant to the issues of the day.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Sollenberger, M. and M. Rozell, The President’s Czars: Undermining Congress and the Constitution. University Press of Kansas, Accepted, awaiting page proofs.

Sollenberger, M. Judicial Appointments and Democratic Controls. Carolina Academic Press, 2011.

Sollenberger, M. The President Shall Nominate: How Congress Trumps Executive Power. University Press of Kansas, 2008.

Sollenberger, M. “The Blue Slip: A Theory of Unified and Divided Government,” *Congress & the Presidency*, Vol. 37, May-August 2010, 125-156.

Sollenberger, M. “Statutory Qualifications on Appointments: Congressional and Constitutional Choices,” *Public Administration Quarterly*, vol. 34, 2010, 202-237.

Rozell M. and M. Sollenberger, “The Unitary Executive and Secrecy in the Bush Presidency: The Case of the Energy Task force Controversy” in R. Barilleaux and C. Kelly, eds. The Unitary Executive and the Modern Presidency, Texas A&M University Press, 2010, 145-162.

T. Mann, N. Ornstein, M. Rozell, and M. Sollenberger, Amicus Brief filed in the case of *Committee on the Judiciary v Harriet Miers, et al.*, Civil No. 1:08-cv-00409 (D. D. C. 2008).

Service: Professor Sollenberger’s service contributions are excellent. He has been a thoughtful and serious participant in discipline and department affairs, served on the department Executive Committee, was co-organizer of the Social Science Colloquium series, and served on the Difference Makers Committee (to select fifty outstanding students in honor of the university’s fiftieth anniversary). He spoke on three faculty forums (the Presidential Election, Obama at One, which he helped conceive and organize, and the health care bill), spoke to Amnesty International about rights of citizens and non-citizens, and was on a panel on Best Practices for Hybrid Graduate Programs. He worked with College Republicans when they were having difficulties, and with the Political Science Club. He was on the Master of Public Policy Review Committee, and helped write their five-year review. At the chair’s request, he was in charge of rewriting the Department by-laws. In the broader academic community, he has reviewed manuscripts for *Presidential Studies Quarterly* and *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, was an external reviewer for a National Science Fellowship, and a book reviewer for Oxford University Press.

External Reviewer:

Reviewer A: “I have found [his work] prolific, erudite, and highly impressive. ... Sollenberger has a nose for important and carefully grounded scholarly work that also has resonance with larger public policy debates. ... His co-authored article on executive privilege and the attorney general firings of the Bush administration is an exemplar of scholarly writing. ... Sollenberger’s article on blue slips in the Senate provides an informative and insightful look at the interplay of partisanship and ideology. ... Sollenberger’s already-numerous op-eds and essays ... give your institution a kind of national visibility it would not otherwise receive.”

Reviewer B: “His two books on judicial appointments are both of high scholarly quality. ... His new third book ... may well be an important and recognized work in the field. ... Mitchel’s use of longitudinal analysis is first rate. . .”

Reviewer C: “The breadth and depth of his studies were impressive. ... Sollenberger provides a deeper exploration of all the branches’ constitutional authority before, during, and after nomination. All in all, both are outstanding academic works. ... This third book project will undoubtedly raise Prof. Sollenberger’s stature even higher than it is today. ... Sollenberger has compiled a record of scholarship that is deeply impressive in its quality and quantity.”

Reviewer D: “...his scholarship and analysis of the separation of powers demonstrates expertise across a broad range of important topics. ... his scholarship is noteworthy because of his proclivity to ‘break new ground.’ He finds topics that are untouched, but nevertheless important to the study of the presidency and Congress. ... Dr. Sollenberger’s contributions to the discipline have been nothing short of outstanding...”

Reviewer E: “In my view, the two words that best summarize the entire body of Dr. Sollenberger’s scholarship are ‘comprehensive and timely.’ ... Dr. Sollenberger’s first major work, *The President Shall Nominate* (2008), has received positive attention as an important contribution to prior scholarship on Congress, the presidency and the appointments process.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Sollenberger has demonstrated his commitment and skill in all three areas of academic performance. He is an engaging teacher who sets high standards for his students; a conscientious colleague who contributes to the department, the campus and the university; and a highly productive scholar who has established an excellent record of research and publication. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Mitchel A. Sollenberger for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



Jerold L. Hale, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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