Approved by the Regents
May 17, 2012

Promotion Recommendation
The University of Michigan
School of Natural Resources and Environment

MaryCarol Rossiter Hunter, assistant professor of natural resources and environment, School of Natural Resources and Environment, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Academic Degrees:

1999	M.L.A.	Landscape Architecture, University of Georgia
1981	Ph.D.	Ecology, State University of New York at Stony Brook
1976	B.A.	Zoology, University of California at Berkeley
1970	B.A.	Communications, University of Detroit

Professional Record:

2006 – present	Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
2003 – 2005	Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia
1999 – 2003	Landscape Architect, Beall, Gonnsen & Co., Athens, GA
1995 – 1997	Adjunct Associate Research Ecologist, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia
1992 - 1995	Assistant Professor (tenure track), Département de Biologie, Université Laval, Québec, Canada
1987 – 1992	Research Associate (non-standing faculty), Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University
1984 – 1987	Post-doctoral Associate, Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University
1982 – 1984	Lecturer, Department of Zoology, University of Texas at Austin
1981	Post-doctoral Associate, Department of Botany and Zoology, University of Texas at Austin

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Hunter has taught two courses required of students in the professionally accredited three-year Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.) program, and she has developed two elective seminars. In these courses and in planning for future courses, Professor Hunter is clearly dedicated to rigor in content and motivated to explore different pedagogies in response to student feedback. For example, to help learners in the required NRE 691 Planting Design studio, she saw the need for and developed a new learning tool based on the products of her research. Using an extensive database on characteristics of native plant species of the Great Lakes region that her lab developed as a prelude to research on adaptations to climate change (Hunter 2011b), she developed a classroom tool in a new horticultural module for Ecological Planting Design. Consequently, landscape architecture students and the communities where they engage in service learning had immediate access to important new research insights. Over the years that Professor Hunter has taught these challenging required courses, student ratings have risen to be consistently above the median compared with the University as a whole. Her engaged approach to continuously improving her teaching is equally evident in the seminar courses. In the two years she taught her sustainable design seminar, student ratings substantially increased to be above the University median. The urban agriculture seminar, which she developed to teach for the first time last year, was immediately well-received by students from throughout SNRE and beyond, with median ratings in the fourth quartile.

In the past five years, Professor Hunter has chaired five master's theses and practicum projects involving 16 master's students. She serves as advisor to one Ph.D. student, who has successfully advanced to

candidacy. This record of graduate advising is consistent with norms within Professor Hunter's discipline, landscape architecture.

Research: Professor Hunter's research program – a major departure from her previous career as a research ecologist – focuses on human well-being as it relates to the experience of urban nature and stewardship. Her research is interdisciplinary and translational; she strives to produce new knowledge that can be applied to real-world situations. The SNRE Select Committee of disciplinary peers particularly noted that Professor Hunter's approach to design research has been to integrate "environmental understanding with the development of landscape design ideas and use of methods from the social sciences to measure outcomes." Although she had no track record in these areas of scholarship and research methodologies before she came to Michigan, Professor Hunter quickly climbed a learning curve to effectively employ social science methods to study environmental questions. The committee lauded "...the recent evolution of her scholarly work from her earlier publications as a biologist to her current approach as a landscape architect seeking to understand and engage community members. Her integration of ecological principles with social science research methodology is exemplary and provides a solid foundation for future research." External reviewers unanimously acclaim her notable success and great future promise in this arena.

In the past five years, Professor Hunter has published six peer-reviewed articles, as well as a chapter in *Landscape Architecture Graphic Standards*, one of the most highly used professional references in the profession. These publications include such highly respected journals as *Landscape Journal*, the official journal of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA), and *Landscape and Urban Planning*, which consistently ranks second or third among 36 urban studies journals based on impact factor (Thomson Reuters 2011). Four of Professor Hunter's publications are single authored.

While to date, funding for Professor Hunter's research has come primarily from internally allocated McIntire-Stennis funds, she has participated in two large integrative grant proposals to the National Science Foundation (IGERT and ULTRA- Ex). The research program she has built demonstrates her capability to compete for extramural funding in the future, a reasonable expectation given her research focus.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Hunter, M.C. and D.G. Brown. (In press, 2012). "Spatial contagion: Gardening along the street in residential neighborhoods," *Landscape and Urban Planning.*

Hunter, M.C. 2011. "Using ecological theory to guide urban planting design: An adaption strategy for climate change," *Landscape Journal* 30(2): 173-193.

Hunter, M.C. 2011. "Impact of ecological disturbance on awareness of urban nature and sense of environmental stewardship in residential neighborhoods," *Landscape and Urban Planning* 101:131-138.

Hunter, M.C. and Hunter, M.D. 2008. "Designing for conservation of insects in the built environment," *Insect Conservation and Diversity* 1(4): 189-196.

Hunter, M.C. 2008. "Managing Sense of Place in Transition: Coping with Climate Change," *PLACES- a Forum of Environmental Design* 20(2): 20-25.

Hunter, M.C. 2006. "Ecological Community Restoration," in L. J. Hopper (ed.), *Landscape Architectural Graphics Standards; Professional Edition*. Pp. 792-798 in section: Restoration and Remediation. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York. 1074 pages.

Service: Professor Hunter has a strong record of service to the landscape architecture program, SNRE, the University of Michigan, and the community. Within the University, she has participated as a Michigan Road Scholar, joined in Provost's seminars, and served as a participant in the Michigan Faculty Scholars Program in Integrative Medicine. She has also worked with colleagues from across campus in

the successful Interdisciplinary Faculty Initiative in Sustainable Food Systems. Within the broader community, Professor Hunter has consistently sought community-based projects for her design studios. Within the profession, she has participated in an American Society of Landscape Architects workshop about therapeutic gardens. She has also served as a reviewer for two leading journals, *Landscape Ecology* and *Landscape and Urban Planning*, as well as for scholarly conferences.

External Reviewers:
Reviewer A: "When I saw that the latest issue of *Landscape Journal* had an article in it by her, I skipped past pieces by three of my favorite, tried-and-true senior stalwarts in the field …I was impressed by the depth of her understanding about the ecological aspects of the work, but even more impressed by how she brought it together with an equally sensitive feel for the social and design aspects of landscape to produce a heightened understanding that is greater than the sum of the individual knowledge components….I believe Dr. Hunter would make an excellent addition to your stellar cadre of tenured faculty, and from what I have seen of her work to date, I look forward to discovering more great things from her in the years to come."

Reviewer B: "Her performance in her current teaching and research activities and her research accomplishments indicate that not only has she been successful, but that she has integrated the two careers to make her an especially effective, compelling and inspiring professor of landscape architecture… Her work brings ecological science and design together with social science and public policy considerations that make it not only a contribution to scientists and professional designers, but also provides evidence-based knowledge that will permit landscape architects to advocate public policy positions."

Reviewer C: "In my history of reviewing candidates for promotion to associate professor tenure, it is rare to find candidates who can so thoughtfully articulate a research agenda as complex as that of Prof. Hunter. More ably than most of her peers, she has been able to execute her agenda….this is rarely accomplished by junior faculty in landscape architecture. Her work is respected as much for its scientific validity and reliability as for its relevance to and utility in adapting urban environments to the realities of climate change. Through her publications and presentations, Professor Hunter has established herself as an effective communicator with diverse academic/professional as well as lay audiences."

Reviewer D: "In my opinion, this work is highly rigorous, original, beautifully written and illustrated and very much needed… She is clearly translating science across disciplines and across scales to provide original, meaningful knowledge to landscape architecture….I believe this to be a strong case for promotion to associate professor."

Reviewer E: "She seems to be walking a challenging line between design and applied sciences (ecological and socio-psychological), doing so with a kind of synthetic clarity that stands out from the current slate of tenurable faculty of whom I aware….(her) scholarly program development is excellent."

Reviewer F: "I was intrigued by the creative manner in which she articulated scientific research questions to address design and planning issues in urban environments. ... This interdisciplinary connection between science and landscape architecture is very rare amongst junior faculty in landscape architecture programs."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Hunter is a translational scholar whose work is highly relevant to the mission of the School of Natural Resources and Environment because it links natural and social sciences to pragmatic approaches to environmental action. Some of the most influential scholars in her area of research have recognized her work for its impressive quality and promise. They note that in its transdisciplinary content and quality of conceptualization, Professor Hunter's work rises far above the

standard for junior faculty in her discipline. Her success and consistent striving for even greater levels of accomplishment in teaching are demonstrated by the trend in her teaching evaluations for challenging required courses within the accredited M.L.A. program and by the topical breadth and popularity of her seminar offerings. She has served the University and School with zest and substance, and her teaching has taken on topics and projects of broader community relevance. Because Professor Hunter shows excellent potential in every way to expand upon her great success as a member of the faculty in SNRE, I am pleased to recommend MaryCarol Rossiter Hunter for promotion to associate professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Marie Lynn Miranda, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean
School of Natural Resources and Environment

May 2012