

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of History

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

John Stephen Ellis, associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1997	Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts
M.A.	1995	University of Wales, Cardiff, United Kingdom
B.S.	1990	Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti

Professional Record:

2008-Present	Associate Professor of History, with tenure, University of Michigan-Flint
2002-2008	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Flint
1999-2002	Assistant Professor, Green Mountain College, Poultney, Vermont
1997-1999	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts
1999-1999	Adjunct Lecturer, Merrimack College, North Andover, Massachusetts

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Ellis is a highly accomplished teacher who engages and challenges students. He sees himself as a traditional instructor, who finds lecture as the foundation of good history teaching. Nevertheless, he uses PowerPoint and other media to bring in images, short film clips, music and art. Although lecture centered, Professor Ellis does not ignore discussions. His approach to teaching is clearly effective. His teaching evaluations are quite remarkable. His average for “excellent course” is 4.58; for “excellent teacher” is 4.71; and for “enthusiasm” is 4.88. These student response scores indicate that the teaching of Professor Ellis is well regarded by the students. His excellence in the classroom is also reflected in the positive peer reviews. As a colleague writes, “...I was privileged to observe an excellent Professor at work. He was interesting, authoritative, and knowledgeable given that he was tackling content, i.e. geography and archaeology which lie largely outside the discipline of history.... Most importantly, Professor Ellis showed respect for the students treating them as fellow scholars engaged on a mutual journey to learn and explore the complexities of the history of Early India.” Professor Ellis has demonstrated that he is an outstanding teacher who is well received by the students.

Research – The scholarship of Professor Ellis has been consistently developed to examine the role of Welsh national identity in the context of Great Britain. He has produced a highly influential monograph, peer reviewed journal articles, and numerous peer reviewed chapters in edited texts. In addition, he has been active in the development of articles that span the boundary of narrow scholarly approaches and more popular venues accessible to a broader public. His article in the *Journal of the British Isles* is regularly cited by reviewers as foundational to the study of Welsh

national identity. His work is described by external reviewers as meticulous and illuminating in a portion of the discipline that lacked significant visibility. He is viewed as a key player in Welsh history, one who provides the much needed voice in Welsh history. Most recently, his research has concentrated on the role of Owen Rhoscomyl in the development of popular history in Edwardian Wales. This scholarship has already produced two peer reviewed publications and a contract with a major publisher to complete an original manuscript during his sabbatical in winter, 2015. The consistent quality and trajectory of Professor Ellis' scholarship is excellent.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Books

Ellis, John S. (*In Progress – Submission date May 2015*). Owen Rhoscomyl, Cardiff: University of Wales Press.

Ellis, John S. (2008). Investiture: Royal Ceremony and National Identity in Wales, 1911-1969, Cardiff: University of Wales Press.

Book Chapter

Ellis, John S. (2013). "Outlaw Historian: Owen Rhoscomyl and Popular History in Edwardian Wales." In Neil Evans and Huw Pryce, (eds.) Writing a Small Nation's Past: Wales in Comparative Perspective, 1850-1950, Surrey: Ashgate.

Refereed Journal Article

Ellis, John S. (2013). "The Making of Owen Rhoscomyl: Biography, Welsh National Identity and the British World," *Welsh History Review*, 26/3: pp. 482-511.

Reference Works, Exhibits, and Other

Ellis, John S. (October 2014). "'God Keep Thee:' Gordon's Magic Ring and A. O. Vaughan," *The Frontiersmen Historian*, <http://www.frontiersmenhistorian.info/motto.htm>.

Ellis, John S. (2011). "Vaughan, Arthur Owen," Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Academic Presentations

Ellis, John S. (August 2014). "The Welsh Army Corps." Invited speaker at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth Wales, United Kingdom.

Ellis, John S. (September 2014). "National Armies in the Field: National Identity and Recruitment in Ireland and Wales." Ireland, Wales and the First World War Conference, Wales-Ireland Research Network, Cardiff University, Wales United Kingdom.

Ellis, John S. (April 2014). "The Welsh Imperial Fiction of Owen Rhoscomyl." Dependent Wales Conference, Association of Welsh Writing in English, Gregynog Hall, Newtown Wales, United Kingdom.

Service – Professor Ellis has amassed an ongoing and wide-ranging record of institutional, professional and community service and is an engaged citizen of the University of Michigan-Flint. Shortly after receiving his promotion to associate professor, with tenure, he became the chair of the Department of History. During this term of service, the Department of History received a significant bequest from a former professor. It was an enormous effort to establish the procedures

and protocols to handle such a gift. Professor Ellis established the operation of the Wyatt Exploration Program that funds and faculty national and international internships and travel. Due to the innovative structures that Professor Ellis established, the Wyatt Exploration Program serves as a shining example of high quality service to his department, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University of Michigan-Flint.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Many of them are solid and worthy, and based upon sound scholarly technique, but they do not speak to scholars beyond the narrow field of Welsh historical studies. ...before 1999 at least some work appeared in publications that reach beyond Welsh history...”

Reviewer (B): “...his reputation rests strongly on his book Investiture: royal ceremony and national identity in Wales, 1911-1969 (2008), which received high praise from reviewers on both sides of the Atlantic... Welsh history is often badly neglected or simply omitted outside of Wales at University level, and Michigan-Flint is to be congratulated on being an exception to this lamentable rule. As Ellis shows again and again, the past experience of Wales speaks to much that has happened outside of it.”

Reviewer (C): “...Ellis has produced a large body of scholarly work examining the creation of a cultural separation of Welsh identity (apart from British) as well as the path of political autonomy for the Welsh through the creation of Plaid Cymru and the devolution movement. All of it has been published in peer review, high quality, and scholarly journals.”

Reviewer (D): “All of the pieces are thoroughly researched and are based in a slew of primary sources such as newspaper articles, periodicals, manuscripts, letters, etc., both in English and in Welsh. As for their scholarly impact, his [Professor Ellis’] focus upon Welsh identity is definitely an important one.”

Reviewer (E): “John Ellis’s [sic] work on national identity, particularly, though not exclusively, in the Welsh context has made a major contribution to Welsh historiography in recent years... Overall, at the same time as holding a leadership position in the University of Michigan, Flint, John Ellis has shown himself to be one of the most interesting authorities on Welsh history working outside of Wales.”

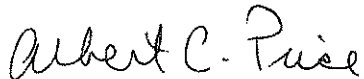
Reviewer (F): “Generally, I believe that in terms of quality and significance Dr. Ellis’ scholarship makes a clear contribution to the field of modern British History... While the primary focus of his scholarship is Welsh national identity, he successfully engages the larger issues of British identity and modern British history generally.”

Reviewer (G): “Dr. Ellis is a leading figure in what is, admittedly, a fairly small field (the population of Wales is just over 2 million) but his contribution has been to ensure that British historians take Wales into account in their analysis of the United Kingdom as a whole.”

Summary of Recommendation:

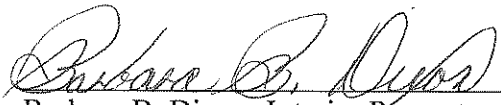
Professor Ellis is an excellent teacher, accomplished scholar, and a regular participant in service to the Department of History and the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Michigan-Flint. I enthusiastically recommend that John Stephen Ellis be promoted to professor of history, with tenure, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

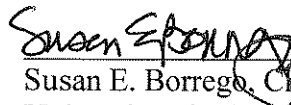


Albert C. Price, Interim Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Barbara B. Dixon, Interim Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2015