

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

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

Vickie Jeanne Larsen, assistant professor of English, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	University of Iowa
B.A.	1989	University of California, Riverside

Professional Record:

2008-Present	Assistant Professor of English, University of Michigan-Flint
1998-2008	Graduate Instructor, University of Iowa

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Taken together, Professor Larsen’s range of courses, her range of pedagogical skills, and her range of related activities show her to be an innovative and engaged teacher. She has taught a breadth of courses that cover topics from the 200 level (The Bible as Literature) to the graduate level (Topics in British Literature). Across this set of classes, the response of students and peer observation is consistently positive about the skill of Professor Larsen as a teacher. Her teaching practice is highly intentional, and she puts a daily plan on the board so that students remain oriented toward a holistic goal. Student course evaluations suggest that the decisions Professor Larsen makes about her classes are effective, with the great majority of students agreeing or strongly agreeing that her courses are excellent. Professor Larsen has pursued continuous improvement in her pedagogical practice, whether through participating in campus workshops on experiential learning, engaged scholarship, or teaching observation; or by getting hands-on practice in medieval book-making techniques in Ann Arbor. Her contributions to assessment have been strong and consistent, both in her significant efforts on the Department of English Assessment Committee, and in her extensive work with colleagues on learning outcomes for General Education assessment.

Research – Professor Larsen has focused her scholarship on two primary areas; medieval feminist literature (principally Shewings by Julian of Norwich) and how that book has been interpreted by subsequent readers in the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries, and early book analysis. This second area involves the techniques involved in actually making books and how those books are used socially across different time periods. In each of these topical areas, Professor Larsen has published in highly regarded journals that clearly move forward the understanding of the topics. All of the external reviewers agree on the quality and importance of her scholarship, calling it, variously, “significant,” “innovative and important,” “new and powerful,” “outstanding,” and “notable.” Professor Larsen has a well-defined and clearly articulated research agenda to extend her scholarship in the sub-discipline of medievalism.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Refereed Publications

Larsen, Vickie (2015). “Julian of Norwich’s First Edition and Middle English in the Early English Enlightenment.” *Philological Quarterly*, (accepted pending minor revisions).

- Larsen, Vickie (2015). “‘Constant Inward Looking,’ Medieval Devotional Literature, and the Concordium-Fruitlands Library.” *Studies in Medievalism XXIV: Medievalism on the Margins*, Boydell & Brewer. (Because the annual is online for purchase as of February 2015, the specific page numbers are unknown.)
- Larsen, Vickie and Curnow, Mary-Katherine (2013). “Hagiographic Ambition, Fabliau Humor, and Creature Comforts in The Book of Margery Kempe.” *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, 25.4: 284-302.
- Larsen, Vickie (2011). “Julian of Norwich in the Fifteenth Century: The Material Record, Maternal Devotion, and London, Westminster Cathedral Treasury MS 4.” *The Journal of the Early Book Society for the Study of Manuscripts and Printing History*, 14: 41-73.

Work in Progress

- Larsen, Vickie. Fanatic Revelations: Medieval Visionary Literature and the Visceral Arts in the Early English Enlightenment.

Conference Papers and Invited Lectures

- Larsen, Vickie. “Julian of Norwich, Medieval Nonsense in the Early English Enlightenment,” International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2014.
- Larsen, Vickie. “‘The Past and its Pasts:’ Friedrich Nietzsche on Philology,” Faculty Research and Creative Activity Summit, Flint, Michigan, October 2013.
- Larsen, Vickie and Kim, Dorothy. “Catherine of Braganza and Her Books,” Conference of the Early Book Society, St. Andrews, Scotland, July 2013.
- Larsen, Vickie, Roach, Stephanie, and Barnes, Roy. “Faculty-Driven Course-Level Assessment of General Education Outcomes,” Poster presented at American Association of Colleges and Universities Conference on General Education and Assessment, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 23, 2012.
- Larsen, Vickie. “Transatlantic Medievalisms: Julian of Norwich’s XVI Revelations in the East End and Harvard in the ‘Hungry 40s,’” International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2011.

Service – The primary service venue for Professor Larsen has been within the Department of English involving the implementation of assessment practices. In a similar vein, she has been very active in the development of assessment as part of the General Education curriculum. In professional service, Professor Larsen’s most significant contribution has been her work as treasurer and membership coordinator for The Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship since 2011. Overall, Professor Larsen has been an excellent academic citizen of the Department of English, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University of Michigan-Flint.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “I am impressed by the quality and variety of Professor Larsen’s scholarship. Her essays are clearly written and persuasively argued. Although she is conversant with contemporary critical theory, she never lets the theory overwhelm the texts.”

Reviewer (B): “It seems to me that Larsen is doing something quite interesting in combining the perspectives of poets, philosophers, seventeenth-century editors and publishers, devout readers, and modern academics.”

Reviewer (C): “...I would place Dr. Larsen within the top twenty percent of scholars in medieval literature and within the top ten to fifteen of those working in the field of early printed books. If these numbers do not convey to those outside the field the strength and potential of Dr. Larsen’s work, let me be clear that I find her to be a very promising scholar...”

Reviewer (D): "...Dr. Larsen has become an important figure within medieval scholarship in a short space of time. She has recently published two very important articles in highly rated journals (*Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies* and *Journal of the Early Book Society for the Study of Manuscripts and Printing History*)... In similar fashion, her essay for *Exemplaria*, co-edited with Mary-Katherine Curnow, is also ground-breaking..."

Reviewer (E): "Dr. Larsen's early scholarly work has constructed a strong foundation for major future contributions to studies of the early book and the interplay between medieval issues of gender and devotional reading... I look forward to her future work..."

Reviewer (F): "So Larsen has scope to break new ground, and she does so quite ably. In this article, as in the *Philological Quarterly* piece, she is able to draw significant conclusions with far-reaching impact from her attention to relatively obscure primary materials."

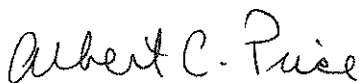
Reviewer (G): "As to her research: these are all pieces of serious scholarship published, or submitted to, major, peer-reviewed journals... ...the outstanding piece is the article submitted to *Philological Quarterly*... This essay is Dr. Larsen's outstanding contribution so far, and suggests she might well have the capacity to produce a significant monographon [sic] on this topic for publication with a major North American university press."

Reviewer (H): "One of the notable strengths of Dr. Larsen's work is her ability to combine book history with current theoretical approaches. Her co-authored essay, 'Hagiographic Ambition, Fabliau Humor, and Creature Comforts in *The Book of Margery Kempe*,' appeared in *Exemplaria* – a top-tier journal in medieval studies known for publishing high-quality, theoretically savvy pieces."

Summary of Recommendation:

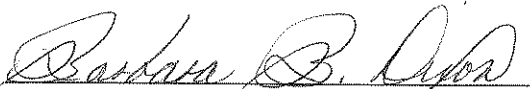
Professor Larsen has demonstrated significant accomplishment in teaching, scholarship, and service while employed at the University of Michigan-Flint. I fully concur with the Executive Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences and enthusiastically recommend that Vickie Jeanne Larsen be promoted to associate professor of English, with tenure, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

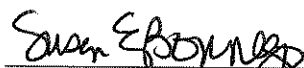


Albert C. Price, Interim Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



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



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2015