

Approved by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

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

Michaela T. Zint, associate professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment, associate professor of environment, 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 natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment, professor of environment, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of education, without tenure, School of Education.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1996 Michigan State University, Fisheries and Wildlife.  
M.B.A. 1990 Michigan State University, Marketing.  
B.A. 1988 Michigan State University, Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management.

Professional Record:

2003 – present Associate Professor (with tenure), School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan  
2010 – present Associate Professor (without tenure), College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan  
2005 – present Associate Professor (without tenure), School of Education, University of Michigan  
1996 – 2003 Assistant Professor (without tenure), School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Zint is a dedicated teacher with a strong commitment to continuous quality improvement in her teaching and to regularly introducing innovations into her classes. She willingly participates in joint teaching efforts, which are especially important for an interdisciplinary school like SNRE. Her teaching portfolio includes two undergraduate courses and two graduate courses. SNRE students selected her for the 2014 Students for the School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE) Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award. Her mentorship was recognized publicly at the 2014 UM Academic Awards Banquet when a Program in the Environment (PitE) student noted “Not only did Professor Zint inspire me through her unwavering passion for environmental education, but she was also one of the only professors I’ve ever had that dedicated her classes to directly preparing students for success in post-graduate life, while also reducing barriers to a new and exciting career.”

Professor Zint is known as a thorough and caring mentor to her students. She has served on nine Ph.D. committees in six different departments and advised two Ph.D. students who have developed successful careers of their own. Since her promotion to associate professor, Professor Zint has chaired eight Master’s theses and was a committee member on one. In addition, she has advised three Master’s projects (14 students) and directed 11 independent undergraduate and graduate studies.

Research: Professor Zint’s research in the field of environmental education focuses on the extent to which environmental education programs lead to changes in environmental behaviors, and to which practices these changes can be attributed. She approaches these questions in three ways: through

increasingly advanced evaluations of such programs; through evaluation science research that has resulted in a popular, online self-directed learning resource that enhances competencies of environmental educators; and by creating national evaluation systems based on a national dataset. She has contributed to the field of environmental education and elevated the scholarship of evaluation while fostering practical application of her work.

Since 2002, Professor Zint has been the principal investigator on eight grants totaling \$653,769. She has received funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as UM and SNRE.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Zint, M., & Wolske, K. (2014). From information provision to participatory deliberation: Engaging residents in the transition toward sustainable cities. In Mazmanian, D. and Blanco H. (Eds.) *The Elgar Companion to Sustainable Cities: Strategies, Methods and Outlook*. Edward Elgar Publishing, Northampton, MA, pg. 188-209.
- Zint, M., Kraemer, A., & Kolenic, G. E. (2014). Evaluating Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences: An exploration into the effects on participating students' environmental stewardship characteristics and the relationships between these predictors of environmentally responsible behavior. *Studies in Educational Evaluation: Special Issue on Research in Environmental Education Evaluation* 41: 4-17.
- Levy, B., & Zint, M. (2013). Toward fostering environmental political participation: Framing an agenda for environmental education research. *Environmental Education Research* 19(5): 553-576.
- Kelly, M., Little, S., Phelps, K., Roble, C., & Zint, M. (2012). Watershed outreach professionals' behavior change practices, challenges, and needs. *Applied Environmental Education & Communication* 11(1): 35-52.
- Zint, M. (2012). Advancing environmental education program evaluation: Insights from a review of behavioral outcome evaluations. In Stevenson, R., Brody, M., Dillon, J., & Wals, A. (eds.), *International handbook of research in environmental education*, American Educational Research Association & Routledge, NY, pp. 298-309.

Service: Professor Zint has given extensive service to the school, the university, and to her profession. She served on a variety of SNRE committees, and on the CRLT Faculty Advisory Board, Erb Institute Executive Committee and UM Research Impacts Team. She is a member of the PitE Advisory Committee and for one semester served as its acting associate director.

Professor Zint has a national reputation as a rigorous program evaluator. She is on the editorial boards of three journals in her field. She has also served as a grant reviewer for several other journals and for NSF and to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Professor Zint is active in a number of professional organizations. She also helped develop a unit on climate change effects on Michigan forests that will this year be taught throughout the Ann Arbor Public School System.

Professor Zint's development of her website, MEERA, is a major contribution to her field, with 300,000+ visitors from around the world.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "... an undercurrent in Professor Zint's more recent work is the need to find ways to bring the study of behavioral outcomes in environmental education to the 21<sup>st</sup> century – both in terms of research methods and in terms of how such outcomes are conceptualized. Professor Zint's work

along these lines does both.”

Reviewer B: “While perhaps it is significant to be doing funded evaluation work for agencies, she is not only doing that but designing evaluation systems that the federal agency uses when they disperse funds.”

Reviewer C: “With so much poor quality quantitative research in the fields of social inquiry, it is reassuring to know that ‘whatever Michaela does, she does very well.’ Every one of her colleagues knows and respects this quality.”

Reviewer D: “[Professor Zint’s] development of the MEERA Web-based resource and other online sites are truly a stellar contribution to the field.”

Reviewer E: “Professor Zint is the only professional in the U.S., and probably the world, to develop and continue to refine and expand a website dedicated to helping [environmental education] professionals better understand the nuts and bolts of educational evaluation, as well as assist them in designing and conducting evaluation studies for their own and other programs.”

Reviewer F: “...I have recommended MEERA as a resource to the students in my graduate [environmental education] courses and to colleagues that I work with in informal science settings desiring resources for programmatic evaluation.”

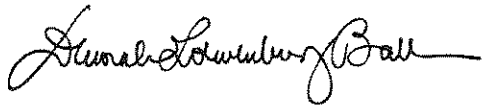
Summary of Recommendation: Professor Zint’s scholarly contributions are robust in terms of design, method, and impact on her field. Her teaching has won her recognition, and she is an active and dedicated mentor to her students. She has performed extensive service to the school and the university. Her efforts external to the university are considerable, and her websites have had and continue to have significant impact on environmental education researchers and practitioners. We recommend Michaela Zint for promotion to professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment, professor of environment, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of education, without tenure, School of Education.



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



Andrew D. Martin  
Dean, and Professor of Political Science  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



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

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