PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Information

Kevyn Collins-Thompson, associate professor of information, without tenure, School of Information, recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of information, School of Information [also associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, without tenure, College of Engineering].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2008	Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
M.S.	2003	Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
B.A.	1989	University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Associate Professor, School of Information and College of Engineering, University of Michigan
2008 – 2013	Researcher, Microsoft Research

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Collins-Thompson has taught in and helped to shape our Ph.D., masters and undergraduate curricula, particularly around technology skills and computational thinking. At the doctoral level, he developed and taught a new seminar entitled, "Personalized Information Systems: Models, Algorithms, and Methods" which students highly rated (Q1: 4.7, Q2: 4.83). He has taught two courses to master's students, "Data Manipulation" and "Exploratory Data Analysis" a two-course sequence which he substantially revised; these have also been well received. In our new Bachelor of Science in Information degree, Professor Collins-Thompson is teaching "Data Manipulation," an advanced undergraduate class as well as one of the new capstone classes for the winter 2016 semester. What makes these courses special is that he infuses them with real world examples derived from his experience in industry, these are particularly appealing for the bachelor's and master's students. It is worth noting that prior to arriving at Michigan, while still a researcher at Microsoft, Professor Collins-Thompson taught a master's level class (Principles of Information Retrieval Systems) and was guest lecturer at the University of Washington Information School. Professor Collins-Thompson currently has three Ph.D. students. In addition, he has been on three dissertation committees and has mentored an additional three master's students doing theses and independent studies. This mentoring work has led to a number of first authored papers by his students. This level of student mentorship is no surprise; at Microsoft Research Professor Collins-Thompson mentored or co-mentored ten Ph.D. students which resulted in numerous publications. Mentoring has also featured prominently in some of Professor Collins-Thompson's external service work, such as being co-chair for the 2016 Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM) Ph.D. Doctoral Consortium and serving for three years as a mentor for the doctoral consortium at ACM Special Interest Group for Information Retrieval (SIGIR). His letter writers uniformly compliment his work with students.

Research: Professor Collins-Thompson's research productivity and impact are high. His publications appear in top venues, are numerous, and are widely cited. Since arriving at the University of Michigan School of Information (UMSI) two years ago, Professor Collins-Thompson has published two journal articles, five papers in the top peer-reviewed conferences in his field (all with a 20% or less acceptance rate), and seven refereed short papers. Overall he has eight journal articles, 23 top peer-reviewed papers in top ranked conferences, and 17 refereed short papers. His papers have been cited 1,645 times

(according to Google Scholar as of November 1, 2015). His most cited papers, "A Language Modeling Approach to Predicting Reading Difficulty" (2004), "Query Expansion Using Random Walk Models" (2005), and "Predicting Reading Difficulty with Statistical Language Models" (2005) have been cited more than 100 times each. Since joining UMSI in 2013, Professor Collins-Thompson has received five research grants, including the $1.5 million dollar award from US Department of Education entitled "Dynamic Support of Contextual Vocabulary Acquisition for Reading (DSCoVAR): An Intelligent Tutoring System." In this latter project, he is doing a large-scale field experiment in a disadvantaged public school system to develop an intelligent tutoring system to make search and retrieval more effective. His desire is to not only further science but to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged youth.

Recent and Significant Publications:

K. Collins-Thompson and J. Callan, "Predicting Reading Difficulty with Statistical Language Models," *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, Vol. 56, No. 13, 2005, pg. 1448-1462.

K. Collins-Thompson and J. Callan, "Automatic and Human Scoring of Word Definition Responses," *Proceedings of the 2007 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL-HLT 2007)*, Rochester, U.S.A., pg. 476-483.

K. Collins-Thompson, "Reducing the Risk of Query Expansion via Robust Constrained Optimization," *Proceeding of the 18th ACM Conference on Information and knowledge management*, ACM, 2009.

K. Collins-Thompson, P. N. Bennett, R. W. White, S. de la Chica, and D. Sontag, "Personalizing Web Search Results by Reading Level," *Proceedings of the 20th ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management*, ACM, 2011, pg. 403-412.

J. Teevan, K. Collins-Thompson, R. W. White, S. Dumais, and Y. Kim, "Slow Search: Information Retrieval without Time Constraints," *Proceedings of the 7th Annual Symposium on Human-Computer Interaction and Information Retrieval*, ACM, 2013.

Service: Professor Collins-Thompson's service record, both internally to Michigan as well as externally, is exceptional. He is on the editorial board of *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* (JASIST), the top information science journal. Furthermore, he has been involved in leadership positions, such as senior program committee, area chair, posters and demonstrations chair, industry chair, and doctoral consortium chair, at a number of extremely visible conferences including the ACM Special Interest Group for Information Retrieval (SIGIR), Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM), and ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM). The quality of his service on conference committees is also notable. Professor Collins-Thompson received the WSDM outstanding reviewer award in 2015.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I believe that in terms of research and professional service [Professor Collins-Thompson] has clearly met the standards of someone who should be promoted to Associate Professor with tenure."

Reviewer B: "I am strongly in favor of tenure for [Professor] Collins-Thompson."

Reviewer C: "...[Professor] Collins-Thompson is a strong candidate for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure in the School of Information at the University of Michigan. [Professor Collins-Thompson] has the intellect and breadth of skills necessary to make lasting theoretical and practical contributions in information retrieval, data mining, and learning systems."

Reviewer D: "....Professor Collins-Thompson's accomplishments would meet the requirements for appointment as an Associate Professor with Tenure at [my institution]. Additionally, as a multiple time alumni from your institution, I urge you to support his promotion."

Reviewer E: "...[Professor Collins-Thompson's] research has been strong, deep, and novel."

Reviewer F: "[Professor] Collins-Thompson's standing in the IR field relative to others at a similar time point in their careers is excellent; he is easily in the top 5% of researchers in the field with comparable time and already has received international notoriety for his research."

Reviewer G: "...[Professor Collins-Thompson] was successful at securing a large grant, which has to be applauded... ."

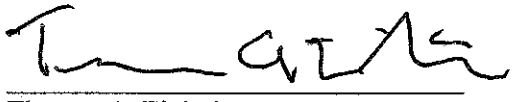
Reviewer H: "...[Professor] Collins-Thompson's record is definitely at a level that would merit the award of tenure at a major research university... ."

Reviewer I: "What is striking about [Professor] Collins-Thompson's work is its breadth and quality. He has collaborated with a wide range of the world's leading IR researchers."

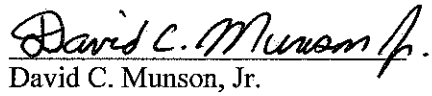
Reviewer J: "...I feel comfortable that the excellent School of Information at the University of Michigan, where I have many colleagues whose work I find of the highest quality, will not regret having Professor Collins-Thompson as tenured faculty."

Summary of Recommendation

Professor Collins-Thompson has a strong record of teaching, research, and service. With the overwhelming support of the promotion and tenure committee of the School of Information and College of Engineering, we enthusiastically recommend Kevyn Collins-Thompson be granted tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of information, School of Information.



Thomas A. Finholt
Interim Dean, School of Information



David C. Munson, Jr.
Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering
College of Engineering

May 2016