

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Mitchel A. Sollenberger, associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2006	Catholic University, Politics
M.A.	2001	Catholic University, Politics
B.A.	2000	Fairfield University, Politics

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Associate Provost, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2012 – present	Associate Professor (with tenure), University of Michigan-Dearborn
2008 – 2012	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2007 – 2008	Visiting Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Director, George Mason University
2006 – 2007	Instructor, Bowling Green State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Sollenberger is rated significantly capable in teaching. He has taught a set of public law courses that are critical to political science, as well as the criminal justice program. His teaching of the administrative law courses has been a valuable addition to the MPA and MPP programs. Professor Sollenberger has taught a reduced course load in recent years due to his position as associate provost, yet he has continued to contribute to course development and assessment, and we very much look forward to his return to the classroom. Since his review for promotion to associate professor began, he has taught seven different courses. He redesigned six of them and converted one from a topics course to a permanent one.

From fall 2011 through winter 2014, Professor Sollenberger scored an average of 4.7 in the category “evaluation of instructor.” He received a score of 4.5 or higher on this factor in 100% of his courses; 45% had a rating 4.75 or above. He received a score of 4.5 or higher in the “evaluation of course” category for 73% of his courses. For each of the six core questions used for all UM-Dearborn instructors—instructor evaluation, course evaluation, instructor knowledge, effective teaching, communicating requirements, and standards for student achievement—at least 73% of his courses received a rating of 4.5 or higher. Students consistently praise Professor Sollenberger’s extensive knowledge and enthusiasm. They consider him to be approachable and interested in ensuring students understand concepts with which they are struggling.

Research: Professor Sollenberger is rated excellent in research. Since his review for promotion to associate professor, he has co-authored one book, published six journal articles (two solo author, four co-author), and written four book chapters (two sole author, two co-author). A fifth book chapter is currently under contract. In addition, Professor Sollenberger has published an encyclopedia entry, contributed to an amici curiae brief, written seven book reviews, and published nineteen op-eds pertaining to his research expertise. His scholarly work is noted for its methodological rigor,

command of the extant literature, and its role in fostering debate among presidential scholars. Professor Sollenberger has been a highly productive scholar, despite demanding administrative responsibilities as associate provost. He has multiple manuscripts in process and is building towards production of a new book on the modern presidency.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Sollenberger, M. (*forthcoming*). The power to advise and consent, in Brien Hallett, (ed.), The Powers of U.S. Congress: Where Constitutional Authority Begins and Ends. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO (In press).
- Sollenberger, M. (2015). Presidential and congressional relations: An evolution of military appointments, in Colton Campbell and David Auerswald (eds.), Congress and civil-military relations (17-35). Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.
- Sollenberger, M. and Rozell, M. (2014). Resolved, presidential ‘czars’ undermine Congress and the Constitution, in Richard J. Ellis and Michael Nelson, (eds.), Debating the presidency: Conflicting perspectives on the American executive (226-233). Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Sollenberger, M. (2014). Presidential studies, behavioralism, and public law, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 44 (4): 758-778.
- Sollenberger, M. (2013). Louis Fisher: Government and the academy, *Political Science & Politics* 46 (3): 488-492.
- Sollenberger, M. and Rozell, M. (2013). The origins and development of executive branch czars, *Journal of Policy History* 25 (4): 638-664.
- Crouch, J., Rozell, M., and Sollenberger, M. (2013). President Obama’s signing statements and the expansion of executive power, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 43 (4): 883-899.
- Rozell, M. and Sollenberger, M. (2013). The unitary executive theory and the Bush legacy, in Donald R. Kelley and Todd G. Shields, (eds.), Taking the measure: The presidency of George W. Bush (36-54). College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press.
- Sollenberger, M. and Rozell, M. (2012). The President’s czars: Undermining Congress and the Constitution. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas.
- Rozell, M. and Sollenberger, M. (2012). Obama’s executive branch czars: The constitutional controversy and a legislative solution, *Congress & the Presidency* 39 (1): 74-99.
- Sollenberger, M. (2011). Prerogative power and executive branch czars: President Obama’s signing statement, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 41 (4): 819-833.

Service: Professor Sollenberger is rated excellent in service. Professor Sollenberger has served the university at multiple levels. As discipline representative, he led the political science program through program revisions, assessment, an external review, and the hiring of a new faculty member. He’s advised students and served on governing committees for programs and the department. He led the drafting of bylaws for the new College of Education, Health, and Human Services. His excellence in service quickly led him to be hired as associate provost where he has taken his service to a new level, helping to ensure the administrative integrity of the university and academic quality of our programs. He continues serving the discipline, department, and profession.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “...his work...compares favorably to some of the work by Andrew Rudelavige, a chaired professor at Bowdoin College with...an enviable reputation in the discipline ... Sollenberger’s productivity is very strong and the quality of his work is very high. Sollenberger’s work is important for the discipline and for public governance.”

Reviewer B: “He seems to be developing a scholarly portfolio that will make him the go-to man for personnel politics...Sollenberger has done consistently solid work over the years. There is not a weak piece in his promotion portfolio...I see no signs that he is slowing down, and his work is already contributing to several larger debates in the field of presidency studies.”

Reviewer C: “Professor Sollenberger’s work meets professional standards for high quality. His articles and his book are well-anchored in the ‘animated’ scholarship and debates on unilateral executive actions...He provides substantial, specific evidence...for his claims and presses his argument in compelling terms...his scholarly work is noted by others, who address it with respect, even as they contest it in their own work...he has demonstrated that first-class publishing outlets—journals and university presses—are eager to carry his work.”


Reviewer D: “Sollenberger’s work is high quality, and he has made a significant contribution to the scholarly literature on executive power and separation of powers...The record is, without question, solid and substantive.”


Reviewer E: “[Professor Sollenberger and his co-author of The President’s Czars]...contributed to both scholarly knowledge and timely public debate. These two traits, I note, typify much of Sollenberger’s body of scholarly work...I consider such work to be of the highest order and of the greatest importance. Sollenberger’s standing in the profession and discipline is high and visible...As for Sollenberger’s promise, I would consider it as solid and promising as one could wish. I hold Sollenberger in the highest regard as a scholar...who has established an enviable reputation comparable to any faculty member teaching at a research-oriented university today.”

Reviewer F: “Professor Sollenberger has the scholarly maturity of an academic many years his senior... Sollenberger is probably one of the leading lights in this research agenda...based on this impressive resume and the works in progress...there is every indication that Sollenberger has ‘fire in his belly’ as they say and loves the life of a teacher-scholar.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Sollenberger is a talented classroom instructor eager to expand students’ understanding of American political institutions. His research addresses critical issues of executive power. It is lauded for its methodological rigor and contributions to the scholarly debate. His service has provided innumerable benefits to the university’s programs and vastly improved the administrative structure of our campus. We are pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Mitchel A. Sollenberger for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.


Martin J. Hersch, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters


Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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