

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Allen D. Hicken, associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts [also being promoted to research professor, Institute for Social Research].

Academic Degrees:

2002	Ph.D.	University of California, San Diego
1995	M.A.	Columbia University
1993	B.A.	Brigham Young University

Professional Record:

2016 – present	Interim Director, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan
2009 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, and Research Associate Professor, Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan
2010 – 2013	Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, International Institute, University of Michigan
2008 – 2010	Interim Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, International Institute, University of Michigan
2009	Associate Director, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, International Institute, University of Michigan
2001 – 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Hicken teaches courses on Southeast Asian politics, parties, elections, and on comparative politics, more broadly. These are well-designed, well-received courses, which are carried out with his characteristic energy and thoughtfulness. He has played an out-sized role in graduate advising by serving on 36 dissertation committees. His senior thesis students regularly write the most outstanding theses in the department. Students find him inspiring and come racing to do their best work with him. They say that he is always ready to help and is unfailingly constructive. Professor Hicken has enormous and well-spent energy.

Research – Professor Hicken is a tremendously active, field-leading scholar of parties, clientelism, and Southeast Asian politics. He builds public goods data sets of high-quality cross-national data that enable scholars from around the world to build new approaches to the study of elections and democratic politics. Professor Hicken's work is conceptually and theoretically very careful. His methodologies range widely and include ethnography, elite interviewing, surveys, field experiments, and experiments within surveys. Starting in 2009 he has published thirteen peer-reviewed articles, nine articles in edited volumes, and two edited volumes. He has received numerous grants to support his scholarship and area studies within the college.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Party and Party System Institutionalization in Asia, with E. Kuhonta, edited volume, Cambridge University Press, 2014.

“Are all presidents created equal? Presidential powers and the shadow of presidential elections,” with H. Stoll, *Comparative Political Studies*, 46(3), 2012, pp. 291-319.

“Presidents and parties: How presidential elections shape coordination in legislative elections,” with H. Stoll, *Comparative Political Studies*, 44(7), 2011, DOI: 10.1177/0010414011401231.

“Clientelism,” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 14, 2011, pp. 289-310.

Service – Professor Hicken is a tremendous provider of public goods for the department, the university, and the discipline. He is active and engaged in the life of the department, the university, and in the profession more broadly serving spectacularly well in his numerous roles, including interim director of the Weiser Center, the Center for Political Studies Advisory Committee, and the Executive Committee for the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Hicken is among the top handful of scholars of political institutions in East Asia. ... Hicken’s work focuses on how democratic institutions – electoral systems, political parties and party systems, legislatures, chief executives – are both shaped by their environments, and in turn impact the kind of representation they deliver.”

Reviewer (B)

“He is a leader in the field of party politics especially party systems and South East Asian politics. ... [Hicken] has also contributed to the public good by leading efforts to collect original data for the profession at large.”

Reviewer (C)

“Hicken is both a knowledgeable quantitative analyst and a true area-studies expert. ... All of Hicken’s work concerns political parties in the developing world, mostly in Asia. ... Taken together, this work establishes him as one of the leading US-based scholars on parties in the developing world...”

Reviewer (D)

“Through his research and extensive mentorship, Hicken is at the forefront of a generation of scholars who are reshaping a field... In sum, Hicken exhibits commitment, diligence, and excellence across all spheres of our profession—from research to teaching and mentorship to outreach and service. He has developed an outstanding record of achievement...”

Reviewer (E)

“His work deals with formal democratic institutions and with properties of party systems both as objects of explanation in their own right as well as explanatory mechanisms to account for regime and policy outcomes. ... Hicken has created a fine record of scholarship that deserves the stamp of approval awarded by a promotion to full professor.”

Reviewer (F)

“In terms of quality, focus, and impact, Allen’s main contribution has been to bring a modern social scientific, specifically modern comparative politics, perspective to the study of Southeast Asian politics. At the same time, and by design, he has brought Southeast Asian cases into mainstream comparative political analysis.”

Reviewer (G)

“His work, in my judgment, is distinctly sound and wide-ranging methodologically, substantially engaging, theory-driven, original, and important. ...[he has] advanced our knowledge and led the development of new insights in our discipline.”

Reviewer (H)

“I consider Dr[.] Hicken to be one of the very best scholars anywhere in the world working on Southeast Asian politics, political party development, and the political economy of electoral politics in developing democracies. His particular contribution has been to combine his deep knowledge of Southeast Asia...with the analytics and methodologies of cutting-edge political science analysis to generate insights into both the workings of these developing democracies as well as generic issues of cross-national importance... He is one of the very few scholars in the world able to successfully combine deep country-level insights with genuinely innovative comparative analysis.”

Reviewer (I)

“He is the best kind of area-studies expert, combining deep experience in and knowledge of Southeast Asia, with theoretically-grounded empirical approaches to political questions. His theoretically [sic] orientation...is the view that political parties are an effective instrument of the aggregation of societal preferences, such that democracies with strong political parties are best able to...provide public goods rather than pork barrel projects that benefit only a few.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hicken is an extremely important faculty member whose research, teaching, mentorship, and service are making a significant difference in the department and beyond. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Allen D. Hicken be promoted to the rank of professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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