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

James P. Tappenden, associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of philosophy, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1992	Princeton University
B.A.	1984	University of Toronto

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan
1997 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan
1994 – 1995	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University
1992 – 1993	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley
1992 – 1997	Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
1989 – 1992	Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Tappenden anchors the Department of Philosophy's logic curriculum and teaches popular courses in the history of philosophy, which are mainstays of the Philosophy curriculum. His teaching on logic is innovative in integrating his philosophy of mathematics into his pedagogy, stressing how philosophical questions arise internally to mathematical practice, and showing how this practice illuminates answers to these questions. He launched a highly successful course on the Enlightenment. He contributes important courses that meet LSA's quantitative reasoning requirement. He plays an important role in the Department of Mathematics as a cognate advisor on dozens of dissertation committees, and has been a cognate advisor for an astonishing 59 mathematics Ph.D. dissertations. He has also led reading groups on Enlightenment philosophers.

Research – Professor Tappenden's research in the philosophy of mathematics has been pivotal in reconnecting philosophers to the concerns of contemporary mathematical practice, and advancing our understanding of mathematicians' evaluations of proofs and definitions beyond just logical rigor. His historical research has transformed our understanding of the history of analytic philosophy by uncovering the connections of Frege's work to German idealism and romanticism (traditions long thought antithetical to analytic approaches), and by situating Frege's philosophy in the history of mathematical debates about preferred styles of proof and definition. Professor Tappenden is internationally recognized as a leader in scholarship at the intersection of philosophy and mathematics, with fruitful, ongoing research programs in the philosophy and history of mathematics that will generate significant findings for years to come.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Fruitfulness as a theme in the philosophy of mathematics," *Journal of Philosophy*, CIX# 1(2), 2012.

"A primer on Ernst Abbe for Frege readers," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Supplementary volume, 2011.

"Mathematical concepts and definitions" in The Philosophy of Mathematical Practice, P. Mancosu (ed.), Oxford University Press, 2008.

"The Riemannian background to Frege's philosophy" in The Architecture of Modern Mathematics: Essays in History and Philosophy, J. Ferreirós and J. J. Gray (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2006.

Service –Professor Tappenden's service to the Department of Philosophy is significant. He has successfully led major committees in the department, including graduate admissions and faculty recruitment. His editorial work for the *Review of Symbolic Logic* does a major service for the discipline and reflects his high standing in his field – he is highly respected.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"…Tappenden's work is some of the most significant work being done on Frege and on conceptual issues in philosophy of mathematics. It is significant because of its unusual degree of immersion in real mathematics and its history, together with its careful and philosophically sensitive use of the mathematics to help illustrate and establish clear lines of thought about important philosophical issues."

Reviewer (B)

"James Tappenden's work is of the highest standard. He has made major, well-cited contributions to all his main research areas. …James is a recognized, international leader in his chosen research specialisations. I suspect that every serious researcher in philosophy of logic, philosophy of mathematics, and Frege scholarship would have read and have a high regard for at least some of James' work. Quite simply, James is a major player on the international stage."

Reviewer (C)

"Tappenden is an important interpreter of Frege's philosophy of mathematics. His particular focus in this connection has been the role(s) that various nineteenth century mathematical developments had in shaping Frege's views in the philosophy of mathematics. This is a demanding subject, and Jamie has written extensively and insightfully concerning it. I judge his work on this subject to be the best there is…"

Reviewer (D)

"Professor Tappenden is one of the top people worldwide in history and philosophy of mathematics. … He is regularly invited to major meetings, to give talks at top universities, and to contribute to the most important books in our field. His work has had a major impact on the profession and it is regularly cited and discussed in major publications or at meetings in philosophy of mathematics and history of analytic philosophy. I have seen him lecture many times. … He is an engaging lecturer with a lively style. I always enjoy his talks which are always fun to listen to as well as deep and rich in content."

Reviewer (E)

"…Professor Tappenden is one of the most distinguished historically-oriented philosophers of mathematics in the world. … His work is deeply novel, highly cited, and widely read and discussed. His knowledge of Gottlob Frege's intellectual environment is almost mind-boggling in its scope, depth, and attention to detail. … The paper revolutionizes our understanding of Frege's relation to the nineteenth-century mathematical background, and does so in a way [that] affords a fresh view of what Frege was hoping to achieve in executing (or trying to execute) his famous logicist program."

Reviewer (F)

"He is the premier scholar of Frege's philosophy of mathematics of his generation and a leading figure in historically informed philosophy of mathematics more generally. The Michigan department is lucky to have him. … He is an active, productive, internationally recognized leader in his field."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Tappenden is a world-class philosopher of mathematics who has played a pivotal role in reorienting his field to the concerns of mathematical practice. He is a leading historian of philosophy and mathematics who has transformed the understanding of Gottlob Frege, the inventor of predicate logic, by situating his work in the context of mathematical debates of his time. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor James P. Tappenden be promoted to the rank of professor of philosophy, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

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Elizabeth R. Cole, Interim Dean
Professor of Women's Studies, Psychology,
and Afroamerican and African Studies
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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