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

Iain G. Osgood, assistant professor of political science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

**Academic Degrees:**
- Ph.D. 2013 Harvard University
- M.A. 2004 SOAS University of London
- B.A. 2003 Cornell University

**Professional Record:**
- 2013 – Present Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

**Summary of Evaluation:**
**Teaching:** Professor Osgood is a dedicated and effective teacher, who establishes a strong rapport with his students, making them feel appreciated, and encouraging them to go beyond their comfort zone to learn new methods and explore new scholarly topics. Professor Osgood has served on 12 dissertation committees, co-chairing three of them. All of Professor Osgood’s co-chaired students have received tenure-track offers from research universities. Furthermore, Professor Osgood has co-authored papers with nearly ten different Michigan graduate students, many of which have been published in renowned journals. At the undergraduate level, Professor Osgood has supervised several well-received honors theses, and has mentored a host of students through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP).

**Research:** Professor Osgood specializes in the politics of international economic affairs. He has done the very important work of showing the implications of differentiated products and global supply chains for the politics of trade in the U.S. Professor Osgood demonstrates why certain firms have the preferences they do, and he does this through insightful, sophisticated theoretical work coupled with careful, systematic, and extensive data gathering and analysis.

**Recent and Significant Publications:**


**Service:** Professor Osgood has served as the faculty co-coordinator for the Political Economy Workshop (PEW) for five years. This Rackham-funded workshop meets regularly throughout the academic year. It provides a vital forum for graduate students to receive feedback on their research in progress. Professor Osgood has been a diligent member of both a faculty search committee and the graduate admissions committee. Additionally, he has been selected by the department to help formulate a plan to improve pre-candidacy graduate training as part of a Rackham initiative. All of the above roles speak to the esteem and trust that the department has in Professor Osgood’s judgement on matters of critical importance. Furthermore, Professor Osgood has played the sorts of discipline-wide roles that enhance his academic reputation and promote the university’s national visibility.

**External Reviewers:**
Reviewer (A): “Iain Osgood is a skilled and creative scholar doing the most original and important work on business firms and trade policy. Taken together, his articles constitute a substantial and lasting contribution to important questions about the policy preferences and political influence of business firms on the regulation of international trade.”

Reviewer (B): “[Professor Osgood’s] work deftly and carefully illustrates how these factors determine which firms lobby and organize for free trade, and how these protrade firms serve as a bulwark against protectionist forces, even in times of economic crisis. This is work rigorous in both theory and empirics, which bridges the traditional ‘silos’ of IPE by focusing on the intersection between trade and finance (FDI) and by exploring the political consequences of state-of-the-art theories from economics on international trade.”

Reviewer (C): “Iain places firms at the center of his research on trade politics and political economy. He likes to build models and test hypotheses, an approach that leads him to clear, deep insights into the mechanics that deliver new and as yet untested hypotheses about the political economy of trade. He is among the few scholars to bring this approach to exciting areas such as global supply chains, FDI and lobbying. I believe his approach will be emulated by this generation of scholars.”

Reviewer (D): “Osgood approaches his puzzles with a huge ‘tool kit’ in hand. Not only is he an exceptionally clear writer but he is well trained in both formal and quantitative analysis. Osgood has one additional skill that is even more rare: he has a sense of an interesting puzzle.”

Reviewer (E): “Osgood has developed an impressive body of research in diverse top journals on international political economy.”

Reviewer (F): “Osgood’s research has been concentrated around the topic of firms and trade politics… He has moved the study of firms and trade ahead by adding theory and empirics about
the politics of foreign investment and global supply chains to this literature. In particular, he has used what is called new, new trade theory to advance this area of research. This enables him to theorize more strongly about how politics might change in the face of globalization. The economic models allow one to distinguish among firms in terms of their economics and then to propose how this affects their political preferences and behavior. And this is what his articles do: they set forth the economic conditions that lead to new patterns of firm preferences and then to test these theoretical propositions.”

Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Osgood brings tremendous credit to the University of Michigan with his cutting-edge and careful scholarship, his dedicated and effective mentoring and teaching, and his investments in leadership, governance, and service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Iain G. Osgood be promoted to the rank of associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature, Linguistics, and Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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