

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

Timothy O. Kiska, associate professor of communications, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of communications, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
M.A.	1995	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
B.A.	1980	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Professional Record:

2009-present	Associate Professor, Language, Culture, and Communication, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2001-2009	Assistant Professor of Communications, Language, Culture, and Communication, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kiska's teaching is excellent. Professor Kiska's teaching reflects his broad knowledge and extensive professional expertise. His students benefit from his perspective and from the attention he gives them, and this is made clear in his student evaluations. In the past seven years, Professor Kiska has taught 39 individual sections of six different courses in the Journalism and Screen Studies Discipline: Fourteen sections of JASS 2015 Fundamentals of Journalism; four sections of JASS 302: Media Law and Ethics; five sections of JASS 331: Online Reporting, Research and Writing; three sections of JASS 338: Business and Automotive Reporting; six sections of JASS 378: History of U.S. Broadcasting; and seven sections of JASS 380: History of American Journalism. Professor Kiska draws on his extensive background in journalism in planning and teaching these courses. For course development, he has created an online version of one course, submitted a second online course for CASL Curriculum review, and placed two Journalism and Screen Studies courses on the Dearborn Discovery Core.

Research: Professor Kiska is rated excellent on research. His work on the history of Detroit media demonstrates an established reputation as a leading historian and practitioner of this field. In the period since his promotion to associate professor, he has produced three articles in refereed journals, with one forthcoming; two book chapters, one major feature piece; 10 smaller published items of journalism; one award-winning local history podcast of 32 individual episodes, and one television documentary, and he has received one grant. His work is commendable both in terms of academic research and in terms of the applied scholarship characteristic of the Boyer Model, and shows both productivity and focus.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Tim Kiska, "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: Women in Newspaper Sports Journalism, 1988-2018," *Newspaper Research Journal*, forthcoming.
- Tim Kiska, "What Vast Wasteland? George Pierrot Made Every Detroiter A World Traveler," *Michigan Historical Review*, 2020.
- Tim Kiska, "Storytellers: Getting to the Heart of the Matter," in J. Stone (Ed.), *1967: Origins, Impact, Legacies*, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 2017, pp. 184-195.
- Tim Kiska, "Nixon and the Media," in M. Small (Ed.), *A Companion to Richard Nixon*," Wiley-Blackwell, Hoboken, 2011, pp. 292-310.
- Tim Kiska, "One Block, Two Businesses, Three Families: A Detroit Story," *Metro Times*, January 6, 2016, also *Belt*, December 2, 2015.
- Tim Kiska, *Detroit History Podcast*, www.detroithistorypodcast.com, 2017-present.
- Tim Kiska, "The History of Detroit Television," Television documentary, aired on Detroit Public Television, December, 2013.

Service: Professor Kiska is rated excellent on service. Professor Kiska maintains a tradition of generous service to, and civic engagement with, all levels of the university and the community beyond. He has performed prominent and important campus-wide service roles, most notably as president of the Faculty Senate (2014-2016) and as a member of the Senate's five-member council (2013-2014). He also served on the University Budget Committee and the provost's UM3 Committee (2018), charged with gathering scholars from the three UM campuses. In addition, he continued his longtime position as an advisor to UM-D's weekly student newspaper, *The Michigan Journal*. He organized a film series comprising several critically-acclaimed documentaries that later aired on National Public Television. At the college level, he served on the CASL Curriculum Committee. His head of department identifies Professor Kiska as a colleague who always says yes to requests for service both large and small.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "In the candidate's work there is a wonderful cross-pollination of the attributes of excellent writing and excellent research...I noticed that the several pieces submitted that were published after the deaths of notable area journalists went far beyond the obituary structure and provided fascinating insight into the history of the media. In this way, stories about specific incidents tell larger stories about the world as a whole..."

Reviewer B: "The level of Dr. Kiska's productivity since his promotion to associate professor is admirable given his course load—he seems to teach three foundational journalism courses every semester. His scholarship is of great value in the history of American journalism, and the story of Detroit. What makes his record 'atypical' is that he finds ways – unlike others in the academy – to share history with a lot of people via a variety of formats, including museum exhibits, podcasts, television and print journalism."

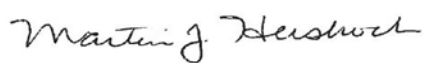
Reviewer C: "Timothy Kiska has presented an impressive body of scholarly work in terms of quantity and quality. He is a well-regarded expert on the history of the media, particularly in the context of the history of Detroit, and his professional advice is eagerly sought by local institutions. The Boyer Model of scholarship is particularly well suited to people like Kiska who have careers both in and outside of academia."

Reviewer D: “Kiska’s work successfully links his professional career in Detroit-area journalism with a historic viewpoint that reflects his doctoral degree. This emphasis on news and media within a specific area is a useful contribution to scholarly understanding of regional media’s evolution. This work is particularly valuable as a local and regional resource, recording the potentially soon-to-be forgotten media attributes of Detroit.”


Reviewer E: “...[an] impressive diversity of scholarship—from book chapters and refereed journal articles to mainstream publications and podcasts. While traditional models of promotion would favor that a candidate generally stay focused on the same area, I am impressed with Dr. Kiska’s ability to work in the many different types of arenas. I believe this fits the model of a holistic scholar on many fronts. Dr. Kiska has a clear focus of research and media contributions, specializing in history, media history, and Detroit history.”

Reviewer F: “On the foundation of his long and distinguished career in newspapers, Dr. Kiska has built a new structure of expertise as a popular historian who writes and broadcasts chiefly about his native Detroit for a broad public audience. His rare and special gift in this work is the ability to communicate acute historical analysis in the form of clear, vigorous, journalistic narratives. The city’s history, is, of course, a matter of keen interest to both academic specialists and a large public. So Dr. Kiska’s work is of considerable importance.”

Summary of Recommendation: As we move forward in the twenty-first century, we observe that traditional historical scholarship is of increasing value yet it is also increasingly reshaped by the need for hands-on experience, particularly in the field of media. In this light, we recognize the importance of Professor Kiska’s work and its enactment of the principles of the Boyer Model in a way that is both scholarly and of service to the community. I am very pleased to recommend Timothy O. Kiska for promotion to professor of communications, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



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



Domenico Grasso, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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