

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

Kenneth S. Lowande, assistant professor of political science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and assistant professor of public policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of public policy, without tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2016	University of Virginia
M.A.	2014	University of Virginia
B.A.	2011	Baylor University

Professional Record:

2018-present	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2018-present	Assistant Professor, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
2017-2018	Post-doctoral Research Associate, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton University
2016-2017	Post-doctoral Research Associate, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Lowande has taught courses on the American presidency, on executive politics, and on American institutions. He accomplishes a lot with students. Professor Lowande is a demanding teacher and mentor, and he brings modern approaches to scholarship to the center of his instruction. His syllabi show care in preparation and also require that students confront challenging concepts and ideas throughout the courses. Professor Lowande has been a valued mentor for undergraduate and graduate students, including through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), and he has co-authored with both undergraduate and graduate students.

Research: Professor Lowande's research brings to the profession a steady flow of important empirical tests and evaluations of theoretical claims about American presidential and administrative policy making. He poses old questions in new ways and uses new data, different methods, and precise measurement strategies to answer them. The empirical work is careful, thorough, transparent, and self-critical. The scope and quality of the data in several of his papers set a new standard in this area, and he has established himself as one of the top junior scholars working at the intersection of Congress and the bureaucracy. While most of his research is assiduously empirical, he is also adept at recasting an important concept and developing a new model for explaining it. His empirical studies are directly engaged with theoretical debates. The work is theoretically informed and relevant to scholars across the spectrum of institutional studies, from formal theorists to quantitative analysts of Congress and bureaucracies to

development specialists. He can dive into specifics in great detail, but also convey key generalizations across multiple policy areas of relevance to the U.S. federal government.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Lowande, K. & Potter, R. (2021). Congressional oversight revisited: Politics and procedure in agency rulemaking. *The Journal of Politics*, 83(1): 401-408.
- Lowande, K. (2021). Presidents and the status quo. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 16(2): 215-244.
- Lowande, K., Ritchie, M., & Lauterbach, E. (2019). Descriptive and substantive representation in Congress: Evidence from 80,000 Congressional inquiries. *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(3): 644-659.
- Lowande, K. (2018). Delegation or unilateral action? *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 34(1): 54-78.

Service: Professor Lowande has provided good service to the department, the university, and the profession. In 2019, he served on the prelim committee for all American politics students, and he has gone out of his way to help graduate students prepare for their exams. He has also served on two university planning committees, one for the Center for Political Institutions and the other for the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. In service to the profession, Professor Lowande has served on three best paper or poster committees and refereed papers for over two dozen different journals—a noteworthy number for an assistant professor, reflecting his diverse interests and methodological breadth.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “[Professor Lowande’s]...research stands out in the study of American political institutions by his ability to find new ways of thinking about well-trodden areas of research... [H]e has a talent for identifying and pursuing new analytic ways of examining substantively interesting questions...[Professor Lowande]...challenges many received wisdoms about oversight behavior and presidential unilateral action.”

Reviewer (B): “The QJPS paper contains a number of impressive features that extend into Lowande’s work generally: difficult and important data collection, careful empirical analysis, and a nice integration of theory.”

Reviewer (C): “Lowande has produced original research on some of the most important questions facing American politics and institutional political science. On the question of oversight of administrative processes and officials by legislators and executives, it is of the highest order.”

Reviewer (D): “[T]here are a few central insights that emerge from Lowande’s research: first, legislative oversight of bureaucracy reflects a sort of neo-clientelism more than ideological or programmatic control by Congress as a collective. Second, when presidents pursue unilateral action, they face compliance problems in the bureaucracy—so ‘unilateral action’ is never truly unilateral. Third, presidential unilateral action is often focused more on sending signals to ideologues in the president’s partisan base than on effecting real policy change, so in one sense there is less to presidential unilateral action than meets the eye...[Lowande] has thought deeply

about the functioning of the systems he studies, tried to make sense of them with prevailing theories, found those theories wanting, and told us alternative ways to think of these systems... Lowande is methodologically catholic, deploying quantitative techniques for observational and survey data, qualitative measures, and formal models as needed to make the points he wants to make.”

Reviewer (E): “[Lowande’s central contribution]...is the systematic collection of data that allows testing arguments and theoretical models about the nature of the strategic interaction among Congress, the president, and the administrative state/Bureaucracy.”

Reviewer (F): “Lowande’s...capacity to distill both research puzzles and mechanisms into their most essential elements...[is] a rare gift shared among the most talented and successful scholars.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Lowande has developed an impressive research portfolio, his research is ambitious and impactful, his teaching is effective, and he is a good citizen of the university. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Kenneth S. Lowande be promoted to the rank of associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of public policy, without tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.



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



Celeste Watkins-Hayes
Dean, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor
Jean E. Fairfax Collegiate Professor of Public Policy
Professor of Sociology
University of Michigan

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