PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Engineering
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Lu Wang, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, with tenure, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering.

Academic Degrees:
Ph.D.   2015   Cornell University, Computer Science, Ithaca, NY
B.S.   2009   Peking University, Intelligence Science and Technology, Beijing, China
B.A.   2009   Peking University, Economics, Beijing, China

Professional Record:
2020 – present   Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan
2015 – 2020   Assistant Professor, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching: Professor Wang has done an outstanding job of teaching several key undergraduate and graduate courses in the EECS Department. As her student evaluations indicate, Professor Wang has been a very effective and popular teacher in the classroom. Her average ratings over four classes are 4.52 and 4.72 for questions Q1 and Q2, respectively. Students refer to her as an engaging, enthusiastic, and effective lecturer. She has taught four different courses, including one newly introduced course. She has made significant revisions to the content of two courses and introduced a new course on Natural Language Processing with Deep Learning. She has also shown to be a dedicated and successful mentor of graduate student research. She has successfully graduated one Ph.D. student and is currently advising seven others.

Research: Professor Wang's research is broadly in the area of Natural Language Processing (NLP). She has an impressive publication record featuring a number of high impact articles at the most prestigious conferences in NLP. She has over 40 refereed conference proceedings papers and two journal papers. According to Google Scholar, these papers have garnered over 1700 citations, putting her h-index at 26. Professor Wang has more than 30 publications in tier I conferences such as ACL, EMNLP, and TACL. These totals are representative of someone doing very well at a similar stage of their career and attest to the widespread attention that her work has achieved. Professor Wang also has an impressive track record of funding from not only government agencies but also industry. The total funding raised from proposals for which Professor Wang is a PI or co-PI is about $1.9 million, in the rather short duration since joining UM in 2020. Her funding includes a prestigious NSF CAREER award.

Recent and Significant Publications:

L. Huang, L. Wu, L. Wang, "Knowledge Graph-Augmented Abstractive Summarization with Semantic-Driven Cloze Reward," *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (ACL), 2020.

S. Cao, L. Wang, "Contrastive Learning for Improving Faithfulness and Factuality in Abstractive Summarization," *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* (EMNLP), 2021.

X. Hua, Z. Hu, L. Wang, "Argument Generation with Retrieval, Planning, and Realization," *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (ACL), 2019.

X. Hua, A. Sreevatsa, L. Wang, "Dynamic Planning of Content Using Mixed Language Models for Text Generation," *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (ACL), 2021.

L. Wang, N. Beauchamp, S. Shugars, K. Qin, "Winning on the Merits: The Joint Effects of Content and Style on Debate Outcomes," *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2017.

Service: Professor Wang has compiled an excellent record of service to her department, to the university, and to her profession. At the department level, she served as a member of the Faculty Search Committee; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee; and the Distinguished Lecture Seminars Committee. In particular, she took strong initiatives to promote diversity in faculty hiring. In addition to these, she served as a committee member on the MIDAS Symposium and Seminar Program Committee at the university level. This record of department/university service for a faculty member [of her cohort] in a relatively large department is solid, but it may be exceeded by her service to her profession. She has served as senior area chair for EMNLP (summarization), program co-chair for NLPCC, action editor for ACL Rolling Review, and area chair for ACL, EMNLP, STARSem, NAACL, and AAAI. She has served as a reviewer for a multitude of journals and conferences, all of them top-tier, and has organized several workshops and tutorials at ACL and related venues.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "…Lu is an exceptional scholar who has consistently had high impact both within her areas of specialization and in the field of natural language processing more broadly. In my view, she clearly merits promotion to associate professor with tenure, and I am happy to give her my enthusiastic endorsement."

Reviewer B: "Prof. Wang's scholarship has already demonstrated significant intellectual depth and originality that would deserve tenure with promotion at some of the top 10 universities. Moreover, her prime time is yet to arrive...."

Reviewer C: "…I have the highest regard for Lu's research. She clearly has a coherent research agenda, she does not do topic hopping, and her research lab seems to work on well-defined inter-related research problems with an overarching theme. Lu is an outstanding researcher, in the top 5% of researchers in the natural language processing community."

Reviewer D: "I am writing this letter to give my strongest support for Lu Wang for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure.... I have followed Lu's work since her PhD years

and I can attest to the fact that her papers have always been very interesting, thorough, and impactful.... I have no doubt that she will continue her very strong research trajectory in the years to come and that she will reap success after success."

Reviewer E: "Dr. Wang has published a remarkable number of papers in top venues for computational linguistics (CL) and natural language processing (NLP).... I find Dr. Wang's case for promotion to be exceptionally strong...."

<u>Summary of Recommendation</u>: Professor Wang has established a high-impact record of teaching, scholarly research, and service at the University of Michigan. It is with the support of the College of Engineering Executive Committee that I recommend Lu Wang for promotion to associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, with tenure, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering.

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Alec D. Gallimore, Ph.D.
Robert J. Vlasic Dean of Engineering
College of Engineering

May 2023