

College of Education
Department of Special Education and Clinical Sciences

Dear Laura Lee,

Last spring the College of Education filed general research/scholarship/creative activity data definitions with our office. We are now asking that your unit review these data definitions and edit them if necessary to reflect the work done by your faculty. The Office of the Provost believes that these metrics must reflect what your field counts as excellent research and/or creative activity and reflect the many types of work that your faculty do as well the assessments you make collectively about the quality and impact of that work

We convened a team consisting of me, Ron Bramhall, Sierra Dawson, and Ellen Herman to review the submissions from the units across campus. We read these submissions with the following three questions in mind.

1. Has the unit specified categories of work (research and/or creative activity) that are countable?
2. Are the categories of work specified definitionally clear? (Will it be relatively easy to determine what does and does not fit into them?)
3. Has the unit paired these quantitative metrics with equally clear measures of qualitative evaluation? (Is everything in a given category of research and/or creative activity equally valuable? Does the unit distinguish between genres of research and/or creative activity that are attached to different measures of quality? Does the unit distinguish between outlets for research and/or creative activity that are attached to different measures of quality? And so on.)

After reviewing the COE submission, we attempted to capture your definitions in the attached Local Metrics Worksheet. The next step is to adjust the spreadsheet as necessary to reflect the kinds of work that is valued in your department. There will no doubt be commonalities among the COE departments, but there also may be differences and we hope to capture those in this round of revisions.

In addition to the more or less standard categories of research, we encourage you to think broadly about other metrics to include so as to reflect the full scope of research and/or creative activity in which your faculty engage. For instance, do faculty conduct research or projects that have impact inside or outside the academy, or participate in other forms of public engagement? Are there non-traditional publication venues, such as prominent blogs or other online publications, that might also reflect departmental productivity? These other data are not required but this is an opportunity to consider them as part of how you understand the range and quality of work by your unit. If you add any of these so-called “altmetrics,” please add an appropriate data source for each. (Note that Pittsburgh has a good explanatory webpage for altmetrics uses and sources at <https://pitt.libguides.com/altmetrics>.)

Please update your submission by editing the attached spreadsheet as you and your faculty see fit. Please return the updated spreadsheet including any additional notes to your dean randyk@uoregon.edu and the Office of the Provost (execviceprovost@uoregon.edu) by February 15, 2019.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Pratt
Professor of Philosophy
Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs