



Faculty Senate
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Research and Creative Activity Committee

To: University of Alaska Board of Regents
From: UAA Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activity Committee
CC:
Date: March 1, 2017
Re: UAA Research and Creative Activity Productivity

Dear Members of the Board,

Our committee would like to share with you the following memorandum, which summarizes results from a survey of recent UAA research and creative activity productivity. Since the quality of UAA as an institution producing scholarly activity has entered the conversations about UA restructuring, we felt it important to capture a quantitative snapshot of the work product that our faculty members and other research personnel are generating. In order to get a focused set of data quickly, we only considered work completed in academic year 2015-16. We expect to refine and expand our effort to quantify UAA scholarly output in the near future, and we hope that this first installment of results will be useful to you in considering UAA's demonstrated research and creativity output and merit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathaniel K. Hicks'.

Dr. Nathaniel K. Hicks
Asst. Prof. of Physics, UAA
Co-chair, UAA Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activity Committee
nkhicks@alaska.edu



Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Research and Creative Activity Committee

To: UAA Faculty Senate
From: Research and Creative Activity Committee
CC: Samuel Gingerich, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor
Helena Wisniewski, Vice Provost for Research & Dean of Graduate Studies
Date: Feb. 27, 2017
Re: Results from Survey on UAA Research & Creative Activity Productivity

Introduction

In December 2016 through January 2017, the UAA Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activity Committee fielded a survey of UAA faculty, research staff and post-doctoral fellows to capture a snapshot of research and creative activity productivity at UAA, and to thereby expeditiously inform the ongoing conversations about UAA institutional merit in these regards. The survey asked respondents to provide information on publications, presentations, performances and other scholarly activities for the period covered in the 2015-16 Annual Activity Report, roughly August 2015—July 2016. This memo presents a summary of the responses from faculty members only. Ten research staff and four post-doctoral researchers also completed the survey; their responses will be included in a more complete discussion of the survey results at a later date.

Survey Participants

192 faculty members completed the survey. Of these, 153 were in tenure track positions, and 39 were in term positions. 15 of the term faculty who responded are bi-partite with no research in their workloads, while 24 of the tenure track faculty are bi-partite or have administrative assignments without research in their workload.

The vast majority of faculty respondents (182) were from the UAA main campus. In addition, 7 faculty from Kenai Peninsula College, 2 from Prince William Sound College, and 1 from the Mat-Su College participated. Faculty from all of the colleges responded: 84 from Arts & Sciences, 26 from Business & Public Policy, 22 from the College of Education, 14 from the College of Engineering, 29 from the College of Health, 12 from the Community and Technical College, and 5 from the Consortium Library.

The total number of faculty members in academic roles (excluding the Provost's office for example) on the main campus in 2015-16 was 543, and there were 632 across all UAA locations.

The survey response rate is, therefore, about 33% for faculty on the main campus, though far lower for those at the community campuses (the vast majority of whom are bi-partite without research or creative activity in their formal workloads). Despite differences in overall percentage of workloads dedicated to research and creative activity, scholarly productivity at UAA is impressive and needs to be fully recognized. It is our intention that sharing the results of this survey within our communities will begin to accomplish that. However, we cannot know at this time how representative our respondents are in terms of overall faculty productivity in scholarly research and creative activity.

Survey Results

Faculty members who completed the survey reported publishing 180 peer-reviewed journal articles, 16 books (not self-published), 28 book chapters, 48 technical/client reports, 2 poems in volumes, 15 short stories or essays in volumes, 1 photo or graphic image, and 77 other publications. Especially noteworthy is that, out of these 367 total reported publications, the faculty member was lead author on over 60% of them.

In addition, these faculty members gave 69 invited talks at international conferences or symposia, 60 at national or regional conferences/symposia, gave talks or presented posters 72 times at international conferences/symposia, 77 times at national/regional conferences/symposia and 126 times at local conferences.

There were 59 other presentations given ranging from guest lectures at other U.S. and international universities, to participating in professional development activities for local organizations, presenting to local and regional governmental and policy entities, and giving poetry readings at the UAA bookstore (this is not a comprehensive list of all responses).

In the performing arts, faculty members were director or choreographer for 27 dance or theatrical productions, designer at 18 productions, performed three times in dance or theatrical productions, and were the dramaturg or playwright for three performances. UAA faculty members were the conductor for nine musical performances and a member of the ensemble, orchestral or choir for ten more. Faculty members were the soloist in eight musical performances as well. Finally, they listed 19 other creative arts performances or presentations including dramatic readings, crafting screenplays and teleplays, giving visiting artist workshops, and aiding other conductors by preparing the chorus for a production (again, not a comprehensive list). In visual arts, faculty members had four solo exhibits or installations in galleries or museums, and were part of sixteen group exhibits.

In terms of external funding for research, faculty reported receiving 19 International Competitive Grants, 55 National Competitive Grants, 40 Local / State Competitive Grants, 71 Internal / UAA-based Competitive Grants, 40 Non-competitive grants/contracts, as well as funding from a tribal grant collaborative research project, an evaluation contract for U.S. Department of Education projects, a Gilead sciences contract, funding through UA's Arctic Domain Awareness Center, and EPSCOR. A number of faculty members also described self-financing their research.

Summary Thoughts

This data represents a first effort at capturing faculty research and creative activity productivity

for a one-year period, Fall 2015 through Summer 2016. We were looking to provide information beyond the information gathered for UAA's reaccreditation efforts, which comes primarily from records of external funding awards.

More analyses of what was included in this survey need to be done. In addition, resources such as "Web of Science" and Google Scholars could be used to enhance our information. A quick search of Web of Science for 2015-2016, for University of Alaska Anchorage in the Organization field, finds 392 results.

In addition, a task force is working on developing an electronic Annual Activity Report database that will facilitate mining faculty AARs to collect comprehensive information on faculty research and creative activity productivity. However, in the meantime, we plan to field this survey again; it will be refined (taking into account feedback from participants), and greater lead time will be given. These initial survey data were collected as quickly as possible in order to inform the immediate conversation about UAA Research & Creative Activity productivity and institutional merit. We greatly appreciated the assistance of the deans in encouraging participation, and we hope for an even better response rate in future editions. This will help us to better represent the significant scholarly contributions that UAA faculty members and researchers make to the academic community as well as to Anchorage, Alaska, the nation, and beyond.