




Office of the Provost and
Senior Vice President

TO: UVM Academic Deans

FROM: David V. Rosowsky, Provost 

DATE: October 16, 2017

SUBJ: *Scholarly Productivity and Impact Metrics*, report on progress

BACKGROUND

As a great university, and consistent with the goals of the President's [Strategic Action Plan](#) and the [Academic Excellence Goals](#) for the University of Vermont, it is essential that we be able to measure and message our collective scholarly productivity and impact. This includes quantitative assessment of relevant and nationally accepted standards (which may be discipline-specific) for scholarly productivity and impact, *or* – in cases where nationally accepted quantitative metrics do not exist for a given discipline or type of scholarship or creative activity – qualitative assessment criteria that can be independently verified, reported, and compared with information from other institutions. As I stated in my December 2014 [memo](#), the goal of tracking scholarly productivity is to empower departments and colleges to effect positive and strategic change. Information about scholarly impact is used to message and affirm value, distinguish the University, and advance our reputation.

In 2015, we completed a year-long effort to develop *Scholarly Productivity and Impact Metrics* for each academic unit of the University. The groundwork (motivation and goals) for this important activity was laid the previous year, in 2014. A full listing of all communications and outcomes, including a complete discussion of the goals for this university-wide engagement, the process used to develop the metrics, and clear statements about how the metrics could and should be used by the colleges and schools can be found on a dedicated [webpage](#).

In my October 2015 [memo](#), I provided a list of “common metrics” shared by all of the academic units. I posited at the outset, and continue to believe, that recognizing these common scholarship metrics can help to *contextualize shared goals* for scholarly productivity and impact, and *inform future discussions* about the importance of our scholarly endeavors – individually, by academic department, and collectively as a great university.

PROGRESS REPORT

Following our discussion at a recent PALC meeting this fall, I am writing now to request that you develop a brief report that summarizes activity/advances as measured by using the specific *Scholarly Impact and Productivity Metrics* established for your academic unit(s) two years ago. A reminder that the final metrics and the deans' narratives are posted on the *Scholarly Productivity and Impact* [webpage](#). Specifically, I am asking that you focus your brief report on the seven “Common Metrics” identified in my October 2015 [memo](#) and summarize progress in FY16 and FY17.

You can present your college or school information in aggregate or by sub-units (individual departments or clusters of academic departments), whatever makes most sense. Your report should be brief and can take whatever form you wish (*e.g.*, dashboard, table, and/or narrative).

Your report should also identify instances where significant progress is being achieved and those cases where progress is not being realized. In the latter case, you should indicate steps being taken to remove barriers (actual or perceived) and motivate/incentivize progress.

This is not intended to be an onerous reporting effort, but rather a chance to reflect on progress over the last two years and identify areas needing further effort or attention.

Please provide your report no later than February 1, 2018.