

Provost Interview

Please sketch your background/history at this institution.

University Work Environment

In your experience, have expectations/practices regarding research changed in the past decade? In what ways?

In your experience, have expectations/practices regarding teaching changed in the past decade? In what ways?

Have changes in expectations/practices for teaching affected publication practices? How?

In your experience, have expectations/practices regarding university service changed in the past decade? In what ways?

Have changes in expectations/practices for university service affected publication practices? How?

In your experience, have expectations/practices regarding community service changed in the past decade? In what ways?

Have changes in expectations/practices regarding community service affected publication practices? How?

In your experience, have expectations/practices regarding consulting with industry changed in the past decade? With government? In what ways?

Have changes in expectations/practices regarding consulting affected publication practices? How?

Research Environment

Has the way that research is done at your university/in American universities changed in the last two decades? How?

Has research become more collaborative? How (e.g., within the university, across universities)? How has this affected scientific publication?

Has research become more interdisciplinary? How (e.g., across broad domains of science, within broad domains)? How has this affected scientific publication?

One hears a lot about the globalization of research. Is the research community becoming more global? How has this affected publication practices at your university?

Have centers assumed a more important role in research relative to university departments? How has this affected scientific publication?

In your experience, have expectations/practices regarding commercialization of research changed in the past decade? How? How has this affected scientific publication? Do researchers now withhold things that in the past would have resulted in publications?

Has the availability of good graduate students changed (e.g., quality, nationality, career aspirations)? Has this affected publication practices? In what ways?

Has the availability of good postdocs changed (e.g., quality, nationality, career aspirations)? Has this affected publication practices? In what ways?

Has the availability of other kinds of research personnel changed (technicians, undergraduates, etc.)? Has this affected publication practices? In what ways?

Have funding agencies changed their practices? In what ways (basic/applied emphases, different mix of agency sources, different funding levels, different administrative monitoring practices, harder/easier to get funds)? How has this affected how many or what kinds of publications researchers produce?

Publication Practices

What has the Internet done to change the dissemination of research findings?

Have the rewards for publication (at your university, in academic research) changed in any way?

Is there more/less emphasis on quantity of publication?

Is there more/less emphasis on quality of publication?

Is there more/less emphasis on quality of the journal in which a paper appears?

Has the premium for publishing in the top 3–5 journals in an area changed? Increased or decreased?

Has a journal's inclusion in the Science Citation Index become more/less important for assessing publications at your university?

Have citations to a researcher's publications (impact factors) changed in importance?

Have there been changes in the way that your university weighs publications in tenure and promotion decisions?

How does your university handle differences in publication practices among fields when you assess faculty productivity? How has this changed over time?

To what degree is this a source of concern among faculty coming up for tenure and promotion? Among department chairs?

How does your university handle emerging research practices (e.g., collaborative, interdisciplinary, Internet-based) in tenure and promotion decisions?

Have there been changes in the emphasis on delivering papers/presentations at conferences and workshops?

Have there been changes in the emphasis on delivering papers/presentations at conferences and workshops outside the U.S.? If so, has this affected what eventually gets published?

Have there been changes in the degree to which labs reserve data? (So that graduate students or postdocs can publish from it later? For reasons relating to patenting or commercialization?)

Have there been changes in the least publishable unit? How? Why?

Have there been changes in scientists' tendency to publish collaborative papers? How? Why?

For each of the following kinds of publications, have there been changes in their perceived value at your university?

coauthored publications

multiauthored publications

multiauthored publications with many (10 plus) authors

coauthorship with a senior colleague or dissertation advisor

coauthorship with a junior colleague or student

coauthorship with colleagues at your institution

coauthorship with colleagues at other U.S. institutions

coauthorship with colleagues at foreign institutions

Have scientists at your university changed their practices regarding reporting research in outlets other than refereed journals in the past two decade? In what ways? Why the change?

books

book chapters

Internet publication

preprint archives

conference proceedings

Publication/Productivity Measurement

Which of the following measures of research productivity and quality do you use?

1. School or department-level publication counts
 - a. Distinguish peer-reviewed journals from other publications?
 - b. Distinguish ISI journals from others?
 - c. Distinguish journals by impact factors?
 - d. Distinguish selected named journals?

2. School or department-level citation data
 - a. For journals in which researchers publish
 - b. For articles researchers publish

3. Quantitative data relating to other kinds of research activity
 - a. Books, book chapters, conference papers
 - b. Conference appearances
 - c. Reviewer, conference organizer, and other research-related roles
 - d. Digital or preprint archives
 - e. Contributions to databases (e.g., genomic)
 - f. Other

What other productivity and quality measures do you use?

Has the relative emphasis on quantitative and qualitative (e.g., letters) measures changed in the past two decades? In what ways?

Related Practices

Have standards for what contributions warrant authorship changed in your field in the last decade? In what ways?

In what ways, if any, have citation practices (frequency of citing publications, types of publication cited) changed in the last decade?

Is it your impression that universities in other countries are changing their practices in ways that affect how their scientists publish? In what ways?