University Council on Engaged Scholarship
September, 2012

Vision

Realize Penn State’s vision as a premier 21st Century public research university.

Mission

Advance Penn State’s public research mission by creating an environment that fosters engaged teaching and engaged research, combined with engaged service through creation and/or modification of University policies, procedures, and rewards.

Definition approved by Faculty Senate and Council on Engagement (2008)

At Penn State, engagement is the scholarship of teaching, research and creative accomplishment, and service that involves citizens and the University working in partnership to create and apply knowledge that addresses pressing societal issues and strengthens civic responsibility and democracy through mutually-beneficial relationships.

Goals and Charge

1. Identify and share best practices in engaged scholarship across Penn State through events and documentation;
2. Incentivize engaged scholarship by recognizing outstanding engaged scholarship through institutional, college and departmental awards and ceremonies;
3. Foster institutional policies and practices that promote engaged scholarship;
4. Create and sustain a campus environment where engaged scholarship is encouraged and rewarded, and is recognized at the national level (e.g., retain the Carnegie Elective Classification in Community Engagement);
5. Support engaged scholarship that addresses key societal issues in the Commonwealth and beyond through evidence-based interventions with demonstrated impact;
6. Provide University-wide oversight of the Service Learning-Engaged Scholarship Initiative, as well as policies and practices concerning service learning, internships, community-based research, undergraduate research and other for-credit programs that involve engaged scholarship; and
7. Consider and recommend systems and processes to track, report, and measure the impact of Penn State’s engaged scholarship on communities, the Commonwealth and beyond.
Potential Initiatives

1. Create and coordinate an Engaged Faculty Fellows program for early career faculty, with mentoring;
2. Create and coordinate an Engaged Scholarship Faculty Academy for senior faculty recognized for their outstanding engaged scholarship work;
3. Host an annual conference celebrating, recognizing, and sharing the outstanding engaged scholarship work of faculty and students;
4. Create and coordinate funded awards to recognize the outstanding engaged scholarship work of faculty and students;
5. Coordinate a seed fund with clear guidelines and articulated expectations to stimulate engaged scholarship initiatives, with results that are presented at the Penn State Conference on Engaged Scholarship (see #3 above);
6. Consider and adopt best practices and recommendations to advance the recognition of faculty’s engaged scholarship in the promotion and tenure process at the college and departmental level;
7. Advance measurement initiatives to articulate and report the impact of Penn State’s engagement work;
8. Evaluate and advance collaborative engaged scholarship initiatives with other Penn State entities, other universities, foundations, and organizations; and,
9. Advance Penn State’s national and international reputation as a leader in engaged scholarship.

Annual Update

The Council will provide the Provost with a brief annual update on its accomplishments in July of each year.

Meetings

One two-hour meeting bi-monthly (October, December, February, April, June)

Leadership

Co-chaired by Vice President for Outreach and one Committee member (two year appointment)

Staffing

Office of Vice President for Outreach