

## Part II, Standard 5. Scholarship: Research, Creative and Professional Activity

### Executive Summary

- The Bellisario College, as part of a research-intensive (Carnegie Classification R1), land-grant university, provides a robust environment for research, creative, and professional activity. It *requires* such activity through its hiring practices and its [promotion and tenure guidelines](#), including those for [fixed-term faculty members](#). It *supports* such activity through its [centers and institutes](#) and year-round financial support for faculty members. It also *rewards* its most productive faculty members through annual awards, appointment of chairs and professorships, and other forms of recognition.
- The Bellisario College's [strategic plan](#) emphasizes impact and engagement for the scholarly activities of its faculty. Methodological and theoretical “cross-pollination” is part of the ethos, as faculty members share their work and collaborate across programs and departments and with colleagues across the University.
- Faculty members are expected to contribute to the University's mission and can do so through a number of venues that draw on their experience, expertise, skills and interests. As its guidelines for promotion and tenure point out, “some faculty members in the Bellisario College may publish academically exclusively, and other may, exclusively, do creative projects and/or publish journalistically or in persuasive communications. Yet others may present a mix of academic and professional work for consideration.” Thus, all faculty can (and should) contribute. The College prides itself on the breadth and depth of its contributions to academic disciplines and professional fields.
- Bellisario College faculty are a highly visible presence across the disciplines and professions. They share their work in an array of venues – including in top-tier, peer-reviewed journals, books, digital outlets, and juried film festivals. They also share their expertise at scholarly and professional associations meetings -- including ICA, NCA, and AEJMC. Faculty members have been recognized by major associations and publications for their high impact on the communications fields.

**1. Describe the institution’s mission regarding scholarship by faculty and the unit’s policies for achieving that mission.**

The College recognizes the wide array of expertise, experience and scholarly interests among its faculty members, and its mission around scholarship reflects that reality. Some faculty members are heavily engaged in traditional academic research; others engage in creative activity and professionally oriented work.

The College’s strategic plan includes the goal to “impact the professions and society through our research, creative activity, and public scholarship.”

The strategic plan lists the following objectives in pursuit of its goal:

1. Promote projects with demonstrated impact.
2. Attain increasing external support.
3. Integrate students in our scholarly and professional work.

The College’s strategies, supported by its policies and practices, are designed to achieve these objectives. For instance, one strategy has been to “connect the work of our faculty, Centers and Institutes to one another and across the University.” The College’s growing emphasis on science (translational) communication has resulted in co-hires with Penn State’s [Institutes of Energy and the Environment](#) (IEE). The College is also a founding member of the University’s [Center for Security Research and Education](#) and a new Center for Immersive Experiences.

Another strategy, designed to increase grant-related activity, is to provide faculty members with “incentives and support of projects that could lead to such funding.” This is achieved in a number of ways, including providing incentives to new faculty to secure external grants within their first three years with the College; and to give priority to summer research grants that show promise as “seed projects.” Another example is in the strategy to “support and highlight student scholarship and the faculty who guide it.” The College’s periodic email newsletter focusing on its research, along with its other communication channels, includes content featuring the work of students and faculty members working on a variety of collaborative projects.

**2. Define the group of faculty whose work is included in this section and state time restrictions used to incorporate activities of faculty who were not employed by the unit during all of the previous six years (for example, new faculty and retired faculty).**

The work of all full-time faculty members in the College since the last self-study but who arrived prior to the 2018-19 academic year is incorporated into this section. If the faculty

member joined the College sometime during the study period, only the work produced since the individual became employed is reported. The work of faculty members who left the College during the study period is also reported – while that individual was employed.

**3. Using the grid that follows, provide counts of the unit’s overall productivity in scholarship for the past six years by activity; first the totals for the unit as a whole and then for the individuals who produced these totals, broken down by academic rank. The chart should provide a snapshot of scholarship activity within the unit during the six-year period. Therefore, the grid should capture relevant activity by all full-time faculty only while at the accredited unit. Provide the total number of individuals in each rank in place of the XX. Adapt the grid to best reflect institutional mission and unit policies and provide a brief narrative.**

Scholarship, Research, Creative and Professional Activities	Total from Unit*	Individuals				Totals (86)
		Full Professors (15)	Associate Professors (22)	Assistant Professors (8)	Other Faculty** (41)	
Awards and Honors	84	20	49	7	12	84
Grants Received Internal	43	13	15	12	3	43
Grants Received External	30	11	13	6	1	31
Scholarly Books, Sole- or Co-authored	6	2	8	0	0	10
Textbooks, Sole- or Co-authored	0	0	0	0	0	0
Books Edited	9	9	0	0	0	9
Book Chapters	102	36	62	3	6	106
Monographs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Articles in Refereed Journals	224	94	141	14	5	239
Refereed Conference Papers	264	133	125	11	1	270
Invited Academic Papers	245	140	60	19	31	246
Encyclopedia Entries	16	9	3	0	4	16
Book Reviews	10	4	0	1	5	10
Articles in Non-refereed Publications	155	101	14	7	34	156
Juried Creative Works	49	0	47	3	0	49
Non-juried Creative Works	238	0	103	0	135	238
Other (please specify) KEYNOTES	27	16	6	0	5	27

- Co-authored work should be counted as a single publication in the unit totals. However, if for example, two members of the faculty are co-authors on the same journal article, it would be reported as a publication for both authors.
- \*\*Includes all full-time faculty who do not hold listed ranks, such as instructors and others on term appointments. Many faculty in this category may hold teaching appointments without significant scholarship, research or creative requirements.

**Notes:**

\* The work of faculty members is also categorized by their *current* rank. (For example, all of the work of a faculty member promoted to the rank of associate professor in 2010 would be

categorized under “associate professor,” even though some of the work of that faculty member was likely produced while working as an assistant professor.)

\* Law journal articles are included as a sub-category of refereed journal articles. The reason for this is that, although they are not peer-reviewed, articles in such journals as the *Yale Journal of Law and Technology* and the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law* are rigorously reviewed and edited, publish work from leading law scholars, and clearly fit the College’s mission to foster high-quality research that, as noted above, significantly impacts academic literature, professional practice and/or public policy.

- 4. List in a digital file the scholarly, research, creative and professional activities of each member of the full-time faculty in the past six years. Limit to 10 per faculty member through the six-year period. The unit has the option of providing a complete list in digital format. (Full-time faculty refers to those defined as such by the unit.) If including faculty who have since left the unit, please note. Professional service activities will be reported in Standard 8.**

Faculty members in the College have been recognized by their peers in the disciplines as leaders in their scholarly, research, creative and professional pursuits. Evidence of that includes:

**Denise Bortree, associate professor in AD/PR**, was invited in 2017 to join the prestigious Arthur W. Page Society, a thought-leadership organization for public relations industry leaders.

**Boaz Dvir, assistant professor in Journalism**, produced a documentary (“A Wing and a Prayer”) that was aired on more than 150 PBS stations, including in the Top 30 markets, between 2015 and 2017.

**Rob Frieden, Pioneers Chair**, was named an Academic Fellow in the Harvard Berkman Center for Internet and Society in 2015.

**Sascha Meinrath, Palmer Chair in Telecommunications**, was named to the “*TIME* Tech 40” (2013) and *Newsweek*’s “Digital Power Index” (2012). In 2018, he was named by *The Washington Post* as part of “The Network” – top cybersecurity experts in the United States.

**Jessica Myrick, associate professor in Media Studies**, was named the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Outstanding Junior Woman Scholar in 2017. She won an Emerging Scholar Award from AEJMC in 2016.

**Mary Beth Oliver, Donald P. Bellisario Professor of Media Studies**, was inducted as a Fellow in the International Communication Association in 2014 and received the association’s B. Aubrey Fisher Mentorship Award in 2017.

**Shyam Sundar, James P. Jimirro Professor of Media Effects**, was recognized as a Penn State Faculty Scholar Medal winner for Social & Behavioral Sciences in 2016. This is the highest research award from the University. In 2017 he was inducted as a Fellow in the International Communication Association, and in 2018 he won the Paul J. Deutschmann Award for Excellence in Research.

Please see accompanying file for this standard listing 10 [recent scholarly, research, creative and professional activities](#) for each faculty member.

**5. Describe the institution’s policy regarding sabbaticals, leaves of absence with or without pay, etc. List faculty who have taken sabbaticals or leaves during the past six years. Give one-sentence descriptions detailing the academic achievements of each sabbatical.**

Tenured faculty members are eligible for a sabbatical leave of absence with pay for purposes of intensive study or research that will increase the quality of the individual’s future contribution to the University. A sabbatical is a privilege that may be granted to a faculty member who has demonstrated by publication, teaching, exhibition or performance an above average ability in scholarship, research or other creative accomplishment, according to the University’s [Policy AC17](#), “Sabbatical Leave.”

All full-time faculty members are eligible for leaves of absence on recommendation of the dean. According to University [Policy HR16](#), a regular faculty or staff member is eligible for or may be placed on a leave of absence for the following purposes: for sickness, maternity or family care; for formal study that results in promoting the interests of the University, as well as those of the faculty or staff member or for any other reason determined to be at the convenience of the University in the judgment of the dean. [Policy HRG18](#) provides guidance for parental leaves (for newly born or adopted children).

**Sabbaticals**

**Shyam Sundar**, to conduct research on interactive media and online privacy, Spring 2018

**Richie Sherman**, to conduct research and begin production for documentary, Fall 2017

**Frank Dardis**, to conduct research on video-game digital/interactive advertising, Spring 2017

**Fuyuan Shen**, to complete three research projects on narratives and media effects, Fall 2016

**Patrick Parsons**, to conduct research on news media consumption patterns, Spring 2016

**Lee Ahern**, to conduct research for a book on environmental/science communication, Fall 2015

**Michael Schmierbach**, to write textbook on communication research, Spring 2015

**Rob Frieden**, to generate several scholarly contributions in telecommunications and internet law, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

**Michelle Rodino-Colocino**, to conduct research on technology, gender and labor, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

**Denise Bortree**, to participate in a research project on volunteerism and sustainability, Fall 2014

**Krishna Jayakar**, to conduct a comparative evaluation of telecommunications policy-making in China and India, Fall 2014

**Bu Zhong**, ICT4D projects at Hong Kong Baptist University, Fall 2013-Spring 2014

**Anthony Olorunnisola**, to develop an education intervention program at University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Fall 2013-Spring 2014

**Ford Risley**, to conduct research for an edited collection of letters from a Civil War newspaper editor, Fall 2013

**Matt Jordan**, to conduct research for a book on the notion of quietness, Fall 2013

**Russell Frank**, to write a biography of Herblock, cartoonist, Fall 2012-Spring 2013

**Anne Hoag**, to conduct research on media entrepreneurs, Spring 2013

**Matt Jackson**, to conduct research on developments in copyright law as they related to the repurposing of commercially produced content, Spring 2013

**Mary Beth Oliver**, to complete an edited book project and associated research symposium, Spring 2013

**Robert Richards**, to write law review articles on impact of federal obscenity prosecutions, Fall 2012

### **Leaves of absence**

**Alex Fattal** (a tenure-track faculty member who is not eligible for sabbaticals), to complete a Fulbright Fellowship in Colombia, Spring 2018

**Cindy Simmons** (a fixed-term faculty member who is not eligible for sabbaticals), to complete a book manuscript, Spring 2017-Spring 2018

## **6. Describe travel funding, grant support, or other methods or programs the unit uses to encourage scholarship, research, and creative and professional activity.**

The College provides support for faculty research and creative initiatives. The College's research administrator assists faculty members and graduate students in finding grants, preparing proposals and budgets, and managing their budgets after funding is granted. She also coordinates the processing of proposals through the University research support services.

The College developed its own research initiation summer grant program for faculty that awards seed money for initiatives. Incoming faculty members may receive enhanced supplemental research initiation funding to provide additional assistance in launching their

research and creative activities. Between 2015 and Fall 2018, summer research initiation grants totaling \$208,100 were awarded by the College to support faculty projects. When made available by the University's Research in Undergraduate Education program, the College has also distributed funds to faculty members to bring undergraduate students into their research projects during the academic year.

Faculty members are eligible for a pool of travel and research money available in the College, which allows them to attend national conferences and to present their research. New faculty members are awarded an enhanced travel allotment to help jumpstart their research or creative initiatives. For 2017-18, base travel support was \$2,500 per full-time faculty member, which was administered by the heads of the College's four departments. Department heads have additional travel funds they can award on a case-by-case basis.

Furthermore, the College's involvement in University-wide enterprises has allowed its faculty members to receive additional funding. For instance, in 2018, a faculty member received a \$15,000 grant from the Center for Security Research and Education (CSRE). Because the College is a founding member, its faculty members can apply for CSRE support.

**7. List faculty who have taken advantage of those programs during the past six years.**

Faculty members were awarded summer research-related grants by the College between 2015-2018 that totaled \$208,100. Some faculty members also received funds through the University's Research in Undergraduate Education program, administered by the College.

**Summer Research Initiation Grants**

**2015**

Cindy Simmons  
Anne Hoag  
Bu Zhong  
Shyam Sundar  
Boaz Dvir  
Richie Sherman  
Fuyuan Shen  
Lee Ahern  
Colleen Connolly-Ahern  
Anthony Olorunnisola  
Pearl Gluck

**2016**

Michelle Rodino-Colocino  
Yael Warshel

Lee Ahern  
Cindy Simmons  
Boaz Dvir  
Shannon Keenan  
Bu Zhong  
Alex Fattal

**2017**

Alex Fattal  
Boaz Dvir  
Bu Zhong  
Cindy Simmons  
Colleen Connolly-Ahern  
Lee Ahern  
Mary Beth Oliver  
Michelle Rodino-Colocino  
Pearl Gluck  
Richie Sherman  
Sascha Meinrath

**2018**

Jessica Myrick  
Bu Zhong  
Boaz Dvir  
Alex Fattal  
Mary Beth Oliver  
Bill Zimmerman  
Michelle Rodino-Colocino  
Renea Nichols  
Yael Warshel  
Richie Sherman  
Lee Ahern  
Colleen Connolly-Ahern  
Pearl Gluck  
Ben Cramer

**Research in Undergraduate Education**

**2013-14**

Marcia Distaso  
Michael Elavsky  
Michel Haigh  
Anne Hoag  
John Sanchez  
Fuyuan Shen

**2014-15**

Frank Dardis  
Marcia DiStaso



Michel Haigh  
Fuyuan Shen  
Shyam Sundar

**2015-16**

George Anghelcev  
Boaz Dvir  
Pearl Gluck  
Michel Haigh  
Michelle Rodino-Colocino  
Ron Smith  
Shyam Sundar

**2016-2017**

George Anghelcev  
Boaz Dvir  
Pearl Gluck  
Yael Warshel