

June 6, 2012

To: Faculty
From: Carol Parker
Re: 2011-12 Report on Committee on Development of Research and Scholarly Productivity Metrics

Members: Longa, Ernesto; Martin, Nathalie; Parker, Carol (Chair); Sidhu, Dave; and Suzuki, Carol

Committee Charge:

To address the University mandate to produce metrics for quantifying law faculty workload in the area of research and creative works.

Background:

Each college must develop discipline-specific metrics for research workloads by June 3, 2011, per #18 of a recent Legislative Finance Committee report evaluating UNM programs [“faculty productivity must be monitored and contributions effectively communicated”]. Regular workload reporting for Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty is thus required by the Provost’s Office. While Law has been reporting teaching workload for several years now, the Provost also requires regular reports of productivity for scholarly and creative works. Workload reporting is in the process of being migrated to a Banner module that can be accessed by the associate dean for academic affairs and the individual faculty members through the LoboWeb portal.

UNM Faculty Handbook Section C 100 governs academic workload <http://handbook.unm.edu/C100.html>. Law faculty workload units for teaching, research and creative work, and service must be reported to the Provost’s Office by the Law School Dean’s Office each semester. The Provost’s Office currently allows the Law School the flexibility to award up to nine units for teaching, up to nine units for research and creative works, and up to three units for service per semester; however, a normal academic workload each semester will generate 12 units earned through a combination of scholarship, teaching and service. How units are generated for “research or creative work, sponsored research, committee assignments, student advisement, direction of theses and dissertations, and administrative or supervisory duties” must be defined by the Law faculty. The task of our committee was to define what constitutes a “unit” for law faculty scholarly and research productivity, using a 0-9 unit scale per semester.

Result of the Committee’s Work:

The committee met several times and reviewed various rubrics for awarding research units in use by other UNM colleges and other law schools. The committee then developed a rubric for use in the Law School, which was initially presented for discussion at the April 24, 2012 faculty meeting, and which was subsequently adopted by the faculty at the May 8, 2012 faculty meeting. The rubric is now published in the Intranet Faculty Handbook at: <https://lobolaw.unm.edu/faculty/handbook/scholarship-research-develop/workload-rubric.pdf>. This rubric forms the basis by which the Law Dean shall assign units for Law faculty research and creative work each semester. It is presumed that the vast majority of faculty achievement with respect to research and creative work in any given semester will fall within the 3-5 unit range given other teaching and service obligations.