Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Definition of Scholarship

Scholarship in the field of foreign languages and literatures consists of a variety of activities which advance these disciplines. Those who are best situated to evaluate the quality of an individual’s contribution to the discipline are one’s peers in the discipline. It is therefore necessary that faculty members’ work be submitted to their peers for review. While peer-reviewed work is not the whole of scholarship, it is essential for the purposes of evaluating a faculty member’s scholarship in the discipline because it demonstrates the validation of one’s scholarship by one’s disciplinary peers.

In foreign languages and literatures, the conventional form of peer-reviewed work is the publication of books or book chapters through scholarly publishing houses and articles in peer-reviewed journals. The Department of Foreign Languages does not rank scholarly journals or publishing houses. Faculty members are encouraged, however, to provide evidence of the journals’ or publishing houses’ selectivity.

Ordinarily, faculty members’ scholarship will focus on original literary or cultural analyses. In addition, scholarship may include: research leading to the publication concerning educational practices in foreign languages and literatures, the publication of a textbook or unit of instructional materials, the publication of a translation, the publication of a creative or analytical literary work, or the annotation of an original text.

Besides peer-reviewed scholarship, there are many kinds of scholarly activity that are not peer-reviewed but are important to the work of foreign languages and literatures professors and are appropriately considered in the department’s and university’s evaluation of department members. They may be classified as follows:

1. Development: activities that develop an individual as a scholar, such as participation in seminars, taking courses, and securing grants.

2. Conferences: presenting, organizing panels, and chairing or moderating sessions at scholarly conferences or colloquia.

3. Activities that promote scholarly activity: such as acting as a reviewer or an editor for journals or publishing houses, evaluating grant applications, editing an anthology, or serving as an outside evaluator of an individual’s scholarship.

4. Professional service to the community: bringing one’s expertise to bear on the needs of communities other than those of one’s professional peers. This could include service to the university or to professional organizations, but it must be service that is based on one’s scholarly and professional expertise. When describing these types of activities, faculty members should provide supporting details about the workload of these activities and degree to which the service relied on their expertise.
**Expectations for Tenure and Promotion.** The department supports the following understanding of scholarship and its evaluation for promotion and tenure:

1. Scholarship in the strict sense (i.e. peer-reviewed), some of which must be both published, or accepted for publication, and completed after the commencement of the candidate’s employment at Mount Saint Mary’s, is an absolute requirement for both tenure and promotion.

2. Scholarly development, participation in conferences and ongoing scholarly and community scholarship contribute positively toward a decision to grant tenure or promotion.

3. Regular, sustained, and productive scholarship in the strict sense after tenure is a requirement for promotion to full professor; a successful candidate for full professor must have scholarship in the strict sense, some of which must be published, produced after the promotion to associate professor. In cases where a candidate has provided extraordinary levels of service to the university or the profession in the post-tenure period, the expectations regarding the degree of scholarly engagement may be tempered by the knowledge of this service.

4. In addition to scholarship in the strict sense, scholarly activity and professional service are expected for promotion to full professor. In cases where a candidate has an unusually strong record of scholarship in the strict sense in the post-tenure period, the expectations regarding scholarly activity and professional service may be tempered by the knowledge of this scholarly production.

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**Signature: Marco Roman**  
Department Chair  
5/19/16  
Date

**Signature: James Donahue, Jr.**  
Dean  
05/23/16  
Date

**Signature: Jennifer Hunter-Cerena**  
Provost  
5-23-16  
Date

**Signature: Karen Wilcox**  
President  
6-1-16  
Date