



MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
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Department of Philosophy

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**Statement on Scholarship**  
Revised January 12, 2016

The department's view of scholarship is rooted in the conviction that the discovery of truth and the production of knowledge are primary bases for our existence as a Catholic liberal-arts university. Scholarship in philosophy in the strict sense contributes to a philosophical tradition or conversation and has three defining characteristics:

1. its results are made public through presentation or publication;
2. its primary audience is one's philosophical peers; and
3. it has been evaluated and accepted by one's philosophical peers.

When there is a question, in a particular case, as to whether a faculty member's work constitutes scholarship in the strict sense, the department holds that the burden is on the faculty member to prove the case.

Faculty members regularly engage in scholarly activity and professional service that benefit both professional and non-professional communities. When done well, such activity and service presume scholarship in the strict sense because they flow from the faculty member's professional standing and scholarly expertise. While the department does not extend its definition of scholarship in the strict sense to include these activities, the department does recognize that these additional categories should be encouraged, and that faculty members should be recognized and rewarded for doing them. The activity of a scholar, in other words, need not be scholarship in the strict sense to be valuable.

The following examples illustrate such activity and service:

**A. Scholarly Activity**

1. Scholarly development: attendance at professional conferences; participation in summer seminars; taking additional courses; and so forth;
2. Scholarly discourse directed to a diverse academic audience: writing book reviews which summarize a work but do not take up issues raised by the work for discussion; editing a collection of academic essays that does not focus on a philosophic tradition or conversation; developing curricula for use at other institutions; and so forth;
3. Scholarly discourse directed to a non-academic audience: writing essays and reviews for popular journals, websites and other non-professional publications that summarize and popularize scholarly ideas; delivering lectures grounded in one's scholarly expertise to general audiences both on and off campus; producing instructional material for non-professional audiences, and so forth.

**B. Professional Service**

1. Service to the philosophical profession: holding an office in a professional organization, or serving on committees or boards of directors; refereeing manuscripts; serving on editorial boards; participating in tenure and promotion reviews for other institutions; judging applications for fellowships and grants; editing newsletters, journals, and book

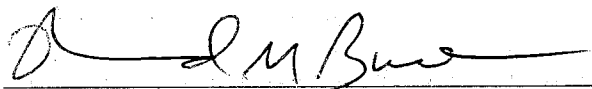
series; organizing conferences or conference sessions; moderating conference sessions; and so forth;

2. Professional service to the university or external community that arises out of one's status as a scholar or one's scholarly expertise: moderating summer seminars for our own faculty or for teachers of other institutions, serving on professional ethics committees; testifying before or advising governmental agencies, committees, or officers; consulting activities; and so forth.

The department recognizes the strong need to support faculty in their production of scholarship in an academic community such as ours that is self-consciously focused on teaching, especially when teaching involves faculty in writing-intensive courses. The department recognizes the challenges faculty face in balancing scholarship, teaching and service and encourages creative departmental and institutional ways of supporting such balancing.

The department supports the following understanding of scholarship and its evaluation for tenure and promotion:

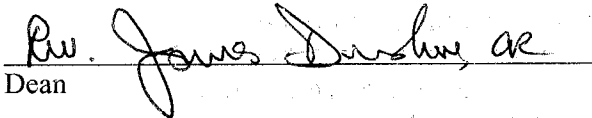
1. Scholarship in the strict sense, some of which must be published, is an absolute requirement for both tenure and promotion.
2. Scholarly activity and professional service contribute positively toward a decision to grant tenure or promotion.
3. Regular, sustained, and productive scholarship in the 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 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.



Department Chair

5-17-16

Date



Dean

05/23/16

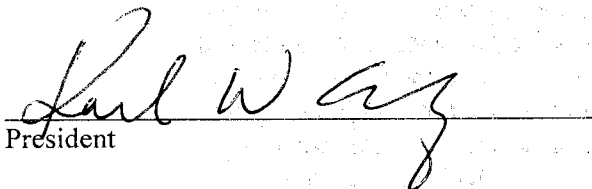
Date



Provost

5/23/16

Date



President

6/1/16

Date