

## Science Department Scholarship Statement: Revised May 2014

Scholarship in Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry and Environmental Science first and foremost involves development of a **vibrant research program** that actively and vigorously engages undergraduates. Mentoring students is highly valued as a major component in training the next generation of researchers, teachers and medical professionals. It is important to note that this commitment, along with the special resource needs and time requirements intrinsic to research in the sciences can limit the pace of scholarly productivity in our department. Scholarship, as it is traditionally defined in our disciplines, should be primarily focused on research activities that result in new knowledge in our respective fields, leading to a **peer-reviewed product** most commonly in the form of a published, peer reviewed manuscript or funded grant which is peer-reviewed. Given the primary importance of teaching at the Mount, we also view the development of new teaching techniques or pedagogical innovations in STEM education that result in peer-reviewed products to be significant scholarship. It is expected that the majority of writing/research efforts will have taken place since arriving at the Mount.

In our department we fully recognize and embrace **science as a collaborative enterprise**. As a reflection of this practice, it is the norm for publications in the scientific disciplines to include multiple authors and publications with multiple authors are to fully count as publications for tenure and promotion.<sup>1</sup> Our department equally values external collaborative efforts and those which take place intra-departmentally.


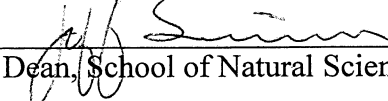
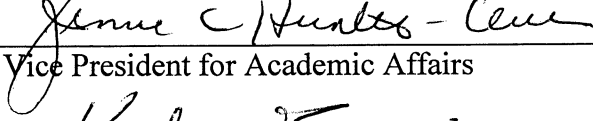
At the Mount, we value an active intellectual life outside of the classroom as an important means of ensuring continued excellence inside the classroom. In addition to traditional peer-reviewed scholarship (as described in the first paragraph), in the Department of Science we value a variety of scholarly activities that advance our disciplines and promote an understanding of them. Some examples of these efforts include:

- **Publishing an invited review article or book.** *These articles are often nearly as essential to researchers as the work which those articles collect and summarize, and thus they are a valued form of scholarship.*
- **Scholarly presentations at professional meetings/conferences.** *These presentations may be on research results, pedagogical findings or they may be intended for a general audience. The latter are still considered valuable as they promote understanding of our subject. Most scholarly conferences will have a peer-review process to be accepted for presentation. All such types of presentations are considered scholarship in our discipline.*
- **Active service to discipline.** *This may include activities such as serving on a grant review panel, planning of professional meetings, reviewing a scholarly article, or presenting at a professional association meeting (such as Health professions or Council of Independent Colleges Department Chairs symposia).*
- **Writing a textbook or other discipline-specific book.** *These materials count as scholarship when they are original, used by others, and made widely available. These*

<sup>1</sup>While multi-author publications are common in nearly every scientific discipline, there remains a wide variation in the meaning underlying author order. Some scientific disciplines simply list authors in alphabetical order. In some disciplines contribution is ranked, wherein first author placement indicates the greatest contribution of effort to the publication. There has been some recent effort to clarify the meaning underlying author order and contribution (Tschardt et al., (2007) PLOS Biology. 5(1): 13-14). Publications with multiple authors are to fully count as publications for tenure and promotion.

may be intended for a general audience and are considered scholarship as they promote understanding of our subject. They are generally peer-reviewed or editor-reviewed.

- **Generation of intellectual property.** In some cases scientific efforts result in patents. This is considered scholarship because the patent approval process is peer reviewed.
- **Writing and submitting grant applications.** In the current government funding environment, often grants are positively reviewed but remain unfunded due to financial constraints. Therefore, funded grants and unfunded grants that have been positively peer reviewed are both considered scholarship in our discipline.

Date	Signature
3-2-16	
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