

**Assessment Coordination Committee
on Research and Scholarly Activities**

**Report to the Assessment Oversight Committee
April 21, 2016**

The Assessment Coordination Committee on Research and Scholarly Activities met on Thursday, April 21, 2016 in the Chancellors' Conference Room, Administration Building 328, at 2:00 p.m. Members present included Lynn Alexander, Ross Dickens, Patty Flowers, Rich Helgeson, Stephanie Kolitsch, Desiree McCullough, Wes Totten, Cynthia West, Joan West, Todd Winters, and Ray Witmer.

The Committee began by examining strengths and weaknesses of the departmental reports on research and scholarly activity that were submitted in March. Identified strengths included:

- Reports that included examples had really good examples to share.
- There was a variety of benchmarks, and the benchmarks had a clear relationship with the disciplines.
- UT Martin has a large number of faculty and students conducting a lot of different types of research, scholarly, and creative activities

The Committee identified several weaknesses and challenges in the reports. These include:

- Statements such as “faculty will exceed expectations” are unclear; reports do not include what these expectations are, so it is difficult to determine what “exceeding expectations” means.
- The new template for reporting should be named “Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity” to include all disciplines, especially the arts.
- Undergraduate research is not addressed in current reports.
- UT Martin does not have a review committee to provide detailed comments and feedback on research and outreach reports.

To address these weaknesses and challenges, the Committee made several recommendations:

- UT Martin should consider forming a review committee to review research and outreach reports and provide detailed feedback to departments and programs. This review committee would serve as an additional level of review between receiving the reports and institutional review by the Assessment Coordination Committees. (As a possibility, the existing Faculty Research and Development Committee is already charged with overseeing some areas of research and outreach; would it be feasible to expand their charge to include this type of review?)
- The new template includes a place for reporting undergraduate research projects. An instruction page should be created to accompany the template to provide guidance to faculty and chairs regarding how activities are to be reported.

The Committee identified institutionally-supported research and scholarly activities that should be monitored in order to meet institutional expectations. These include:

- Center of Excellence for Experiential Learning in the Agricultural Sciences
- Reelfoot Lake Environmental Field Station

- a new contract with the Promethean Foundation.

The Committee elected Dr. Ross Dickens to act as its representative on the Assessment Oversight Committee that will be meeting this summer to review the reports of all five Assessment Coordination Committees.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.