Balancing Scholarly Activities, Primary Assignments and Service to the Community

Career Development Program: Getting Started on your Research Project

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UNT Libraries
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As faculty member, what is expected of YOU?

- **Expected % effort and activities for this coming year:**
  - 70% PA 20% SA 10% S or
  - 60% PA 30% SA 10% S

- **Criteria or measure of quality of your work?**
  - Quality vs. quantity

- **What kind of service/activities should I do and/or avoid?**
  - Learn to say Yes/No, based on (various cost/benefits analysis):
    - Low/high importance vs. low/high effort/time, short/long term
    - How likely opportunity to come again?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Conference</th>
<th>When (Date)</th>
<th>Where (Place)</th>
<th>Proposal’s Deadline</th>
<th>Possible Type of Presentation</th>
<th>Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TxETDA-2014</td>
<td>Mar 27-28</td>
<td>Lubbock at Texas Tech</td>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Preconference workshop</td>
<td>Low (Schedule conflict)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCDL -2014</td>
<td>April 28-29</td>
<td>Austin AT&amp;T</td>
<td>soon</td>
<td>Panel</td>
<td>Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>TLA-2014</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>Passed</td>
<td>Moderator of 3 panels</td>
<td>High (Committee works)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USETDA 2014</td>
<td>Sept. 24-26</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>soon</td>
<td>Panel</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETD-2014</td>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Leicester, UK</td>
<td>soon</td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIS&amp;T</td>
<td>Oct 30–Nov 4</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Panel and Committee</td>
<td>High (Committee works)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASIG</td>
<td>May 1-4</td>
<td>Fort worth</td>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Panel</td>
<td>Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>OA Symposium</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Fort worth</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Pre-meeting &amp; post-workshop</td>
<td>High (Steering Commit. meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others [ICKM-14]</td>
<td>October 8 -11</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[DC-2014]</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Take Some Concrete Steps

• Review your activity journal periodically and reassess your activities.
  • Collaboration and shared deadlines can help.
  • See if you are spending “enough” time on research
  • Compromise

• Choose a proactive challenge for this year
  • Ask to serve on a funding agency panel, or as paper reviewer
  • Reserve a set of time for your research
  • Write a good recommendation letter
  • Nominate your colleagues for various UNT faculty and/or other (external) awards

• Get the Most in Career Advancement:
  • from balancing Primary Assignments, Scholarly Activities and Service to the Community
How do you find collaborators?

- **Colleagues that you work with**
  - Supports using your primary assignment as a research activity
  - Example: Beth Avery and I did a series of focus groups together which led to a poster, two conference presentations, and a journal article

- **Skills you don’t have**
  - Increases available skills, provides different perspectives
  - Example: Cathy Sassen asked me to do a research project with her because she wanted to conduct a survey and I had experience doing that; Cathy contributed a great research idea, experience with literature reviews, and experience getting her work published.

- **Serendipity**
  - Someone sent an email to a list serve I was on asking for volunteers for a virtual research project; an article has since been submitted.
How to develop and get mileage from your work

- Use posters and presentations as opportunities to develop your ideas and collect feedback
- Use multiple posters/presentations/articles to present different aspects of or perspectives on your research
Summary

• **Learn when to say no**
  – Remember the balance that Daniel talked about

• **Learn when to drop projects**
  – When your personal situation changes
    • Example: a serious illness in your family
  – When work conditions become untenable
    • Example: Beth and Diane withdrew from an agreement to write a book chapter when the editors repeatedly provided inconsistent feedback

• **Learn from mistakes**
  – Don’t repeatedly
    • Over-schedule yourself
    • Wait until the last minute
    • Work with incompatible partners
Questions?