

From: Carsten Holz <carstenholz@gmail.com>
Date: 22 September 2020 at 18:29:42 HKT
To: [Manager, Office of the Dean]
Subject: Question re “research-active/inactive”

Dear [Manager],

I don't know who is the right person in the dean's office to send this to, but perhaps you could forward it to the right person?

This regards the dean's 4 August 2020 distribution of a document titled “Defining Research Active Faculty in SHSS Jan 2020.pdf.”

For the item “Applied for at least one external grant within the past three years for SOSOC,” could you please clarify what is the beginning and end of the “past three year” period, and at what point in time are the “past three years” being considered?

If it helps to use an example: for the teaching duties for the academic year 2021-2022, teaching arrangements that are presumably made sometime in spring 2021(?), what is the relevant 3-year period and on what date (presumably sometime in spring 2021?) is the faculty record over the “past three years” ascertained?

Further, does applying for an external grant as a Co-PI (once within the past three years, and no grant application as PI) satisfy the requirement to have “Applied for at least one external grant within the past three years for SOSOC?”

Given all these new requirements, the dean's office will presumably maintain a faculty surveillance database that covers all the requirements to be considered “research-active?” Perhaps this surveillance database could simply be shared with faculty so that we know what our record under the new surveillance regime is?

Thanks,
Carsten
<Defining Research Active Faculty in SHSS Jan 2020.docx>



Carsten Holz <carstenholz@gmail.com>

Question re “research-active/inactive”

[Manager, Office of the Dean]

Thu, Sep 24, 2020

To: Carsten Andreas HOLZ <socholz@ust.hk>, "Carsten Holz (carstenholz@gmail.com)" <carstenholz@gmail.com>

Cc: [Dean, Division heads, others]

Dear Prof. Holz,

Thanks for your message. I have consulted the School ExCo to clarify the points that you raised.

1. When deciding on teaching assignments for 2021-22, the prior three years refers to research activities reporting in the Faculty Online Reporting System (FORS) Annual Reports that all faculty complete based on calendar year activities. In this example, that means reviewing reports from 2018, 2019, and 2020.
2. Applying for an external grant refers primarily to being a PI, though in cases of large collaborative grants (e.g., CRF, AoE, CNRS, etc.), being a co-PI would qualify as well. Generally speaking, being a co-I rather than co-PI does not entail as much effort in grant writing, but if faculty demonstrate that the co-I role is substantive, it may also qualify as “applying for an external grant.”
3. There’s no need to consume staff time with a dedicated “surveillance database.” The university’s FORS system has all faculty annual reports on record. If a faculty member has attempted to apply for a grant that is not reflected in FORS and appears to be “research inactive,” then we will deal with that on an individual basis. Other items such as having published a single peer-reviewed academic output and presented at a single academic seminar/workshop/conference (within a rolling three-year period) should all be reported on FORS. Neglect to report research activities in FORS can be corrected through a special request to the provost’s office if it was an oversight or technical glitch in the submission process.

I hope this helps to address your queries.

Best regards,
[Manager]