

## **The Faculty Activity Trifecta Study (FACT): Developing a Comprehensive Measure of Disciplinary Instruction, Scholarship, and Service**

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In 2015, the Higher Education Consortia (HEC) began a multi-stage research project to develop a comprehensive measure of faculty activity outside of the classroom. Ultimately, this metric will be used to launch a study supplemental to the Delaware Cost Study which will provide an in-depth analysis of individual departments as well as a comparative analysis across disciplines. Data collection for Stage 1 of the Faculty Activity Trifecta is now complete. Over the past six months, the Higher Education Consortia (HEC) in the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (IRE) at the University of Delaware has been conducting qualitative interviews with department chairs and directors of schools at public universities around the US regarding the usefulness of a national study of faculty activity and what the essential components of the study should be.

A preliminary analysis of the data revealed that many chairs and directors are interested in having access to a study that would provide a deeper understanding of their faculty's activity outside of the classroom. Specifically, they are eager to situate their own unit's activity against both peer and aspirant units within their discipline. Additionally, the FACT study would provide an excellent opportunity for faculty administrators to get out ahead of the current conversation in higher education that is calling more transparency and accountability, especially with faculty activity outside of the classroom. However, chairs and directors also expressed apprehension about how the data would be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. These concerns highlight the importance of developing a study that is both useful and responsible, and they will serve as a necessary reminder moving forward.

Under the guidance of the HEC advisory board, the consortia is currently using the results from Stage 1 to establish a complete methodology of the FACT Study. Specifically, the data is informing the development of both a comprehensive measure of faculty activity and the guiding principles behind translating that data into institutional decisions.

For more information about Stage 2 of the FACT Study and an update on the timeline for the study's development please contact Jennifer Snyder at [jsnyder@udel.edu](mailto:jsnyder@udel.edu) or (302) 831-3901.