

February 1, 2013

To: CMU FA Membership

From: CMU FA Executive Board

Re: CMU FA Position Statement on Use of Established Quality Journal Lists for RPT

The CMU FA Executive Board supports the university vision that CMU is an inclusive community of scholars and a national leader in higher education inspiring excellence and innovation.

CMU Faculty, as a community of scholars, inspire excellence and innovation by example in their display of quality through: (a) teaching, (b) creative and scholarly endeavors, and (c) service. The CMU FA Executive Board fully supports the expectation of quality creative and scholarly endeavors; furthermore, the CMU FA Executive Board recognizes that faculty have a responsibility to address the quality of their work in these areas as delineated in Article 14, Paragraph 37:

“It is the responsibility of the faculty applicant to document both the quantity and quality of activities and achievements. Quality must be demonstrated by more than a statement of activity or achievement. The quality of the applicant’s research/creative activity must be demonstrated by evidence, which may include description of the review process, documentation to support the quality of the venue or other evidence appropriate to the applicant’s discipline.”

The CMU FA Executive Board, however, objects to the use of developed journal lists, (external lists, quality journal lists, pre-established quality lists, etc.) as a comparator to judge the quality of faculty professional accomplishments in RPT. The quality and expertise demonstrated by faculty cannot be accurately represented in established lists of quality journals. Such lists dramatically oversimplify complicated considerations.

The generation of quality journal lists assumes, incorrectly, that a body of so-called experts can determine the quality of journals based on factors such as number of citations, acceptance rate, etc. These factors are less than objective and can be/are manipulated by authors and journal editors. Moreover, the use of quality journal lists assumes that all scholarly work is geared primarily toward academic researchers as opposed to practitioners in the discipline and, in some disciplines, there are no such lists.

To fulfill the documentation of quality, the CMU FA Executive Board supports the use of department bylaws as the foundation for faculty in terms of guidelines for RPT. The best interpretation of quality resides with the review of faculty experts at the department level without the use of developed journal or other such lists.