

Imagining America Regional Meeting

February 19, 2009

Truman State University

T & P survey

- 1) What tenure/promotion changes are underway, and how do they address public scholarship? What stage of planning or implementation have they reached?

After a restructuring of the university in 2007 to create departments and chairs within a College of Arts and Sciences, and in response to a charge by Faculty Senate, the newly instituted chairs met with their departments to codify tenure and promotion guidelines for each unit. Departments were not charged specifically to address public scholarship, though some, such as Music, Art, English, and Philosophy & Religion, did incorporate some statements on expectations for public performance, presentation, or other scholarly engagement.

- 2) Who are the key individuals and groups that are talking about or working on promotion policies for engaged faculty members? What institutional domains do they represent (for example, department, chair and program, college, central administration, governance)? What, if any, off-campus networks are involved (such as national associations, community partners, foundations)?

As noted above, the chairs have been charged to initiate and guide the creation of P&T guidelines within the departments. Julie Lochbaum, Director of the Center for Teaching & Learning, has been very much focused on developing the recognition for publicly engaged scholarship in faculty evaluation, tenure, and promotion. She has spearheaded several faculty initiatives in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, which are encouraged to be presented at the annual CASTL Institute conferences.

- 3) What is the role of the department chair in changing tenure/promotion policies? Are you finding ways to support the chairs charged with hiring, mentoring, and evaluating public scholars?

See above, question 1. We have had so few hires in the last several years, that there are next to no young faculty up for first promotion or tenure; as chairs are new and are only now conducting personnel reviews, no direct focus on mentoring, supporting, or evaluating public scholarship has been made by the university, though individual chairs may have considered this on a case-by-case basis. As for evaluating and supporting mid-level scholarship, this is an

important issue, though again there is no university-wide discussion or expectation regarding such faculty engagement.

- 4) What aspects of your campus efforts would you be willing to share at the Imagining America working meeting on February 19? How would this benefit other campuses?

No documents exist to be shared at this point, but the Truman Institute initiative (an entrepreneurial center for community engagement and outreach) may be interesting to other teams.

NEXT STEPS:

- Advertise IA information/initiatives to Truman Chairs/Deans group; meet with campus leaders as needed, especially current chair of Personnel Policies Committee.
- Present to Julie Lochbaum, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and Troy Paino, Provost.
- With a body of interested individuals from above, consider the pros and cons of joining Imagining America.
- Assess opportunities that our rural/remote location does offer (as opposed to the ways it creates a hurdle for some), especially with regard to the newly proposed Truman Institute.