



To: University of Vermont Faculty  
From: David V. Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President  
Date: February 20, 2015  
Subject: Development of Scholarly Productivity and Impact Metrics – Deadline Extension

At the end of the fall semester, I issued a [memo](#) to the deans requesting that they engage in a robust discussion with their faculty and academic leadership to develop a set of metrics by which scholarly productivity and impact can be tracked, evaluated, and communicated. This was among the earliest goals I established for the University, motivated by my belief – stronger even today than when I first shared these thoughts with campus<sup>1</sup> – that we want to be part of the best university possible and that excellence is a shared goal at any great university.

Tracking, reporting, and acting upon collected information describing scholarly productivity and impact is part of how universities function today. This information can be used to message and affirm our value, distinguish the University, advance our reputation, and inform strategic and positive change.

Recently, the Deans have suggested that this process will benefit from the additional time necessary to fully engage in these important conversations. Therefore, I am extending the deadline by two months to **April 30, 2015**, or five months from the original request.

I know that many deans have shared my memo with their faculty to frame the discussions that are taking place. That was certainly my hope. Please note that, as with all initiatives and communications of this type, the memo is posted on my [webpage](#) under Current Initiatives.

For those who may not wish to read the full memo, allow me to reiterate two of its **key points**:

- The goal of tracking productivity and impact is to empower departments and colleges to effect positive and strategic change -- *e.g.*, to inform student and faculty recruitment strategies, to make informed decisions about investments or reallocations, and to make contextualized decisions to positively impact national reputation, visibility, and ranking. No intent exists to use this information for any other purpose.
- I recognize and respect that different scholarly fields have different cultures, outlets and mechanisms for scholarship, and national norms for measuring productivity and impact. To that end, it is my expectation that the deans will work closely with the faculty within each discipline to identify suitable and appropriate metrics to track, report, and act upon in goal-setting and decision-making.

Thank you for your participation in this important process, and for your continued commitment to academic excellence.

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<sup>1</sup> See the November 2013 *Across the Green* memo:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/provost/Across%20the%20Green\\_Nov%202013.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/provost/Across%20the%20Green_Nov%202013.pdf)