

UAP Open Forum discussion, “Increased Achievement in Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activities,” 10 Dec 2015

At the 10 Dec 2015 UAP Open Forum discussion, we had an excellent discussion at our table, one of those devoted to “Increased Achievement in Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activities.”

Necessarily, at the reporting stage, it was impossible for our rapporteur to communicate all of the ideas offered by people at the table, and so I’m offering my notes below to supplement that report.

- York should aspire to be an excellent “comprehensive, research-intensive university”
- York should define “achievement” as both the *generation* of research and the *mobilization* of research, expanding the impact of scholarship, research, and creative activities
 - We should ask, “Who is the audience for research?” which may include academic and public sectors, and ask further, “How do we measure whether we are reaching these audiences?”
- While “Facilitating transformative scholarship,” York should also support traditional scholarship, and defend core academic values and processes like the crucial importance of *curiosity-based, basic, pure research* and *peer-review processes* in publication and other research outputs
- York must continue to support transformative scholarship, including recognizing research and knowledge mobilization (KmB) activities like serving as an expert witness in legal and human rights cases; writing editorials in newspapers and other popular press; social media
- In addition to “Facilitating open access to York research,” York should take an active role in open access publication debates, including supporting “scholarly association based accreditation” that would shift some peer review away from publishing oligopolies
- York can be a leader in recognizing its 6000+ graduate students as researchers, by measuring research outputs like student publishing and conference presentations
- York must engage with the wider conversation in the academy around transforming and widening the definitions of the PhD/dissertation as an academic qualification
- One area of research impact, beyond citation indexes, is looking at where York research publications are used in course syllabi and other teaching venues, including outside York
- Encourage more research collaboration by allowing internal research funds to be collaborative