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EVALUATION OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ***(reprinted from the 2006 Annual Call)***

The conduct of novel and successful research has grown increasingly collaborative in recent years. In this environment it is often difficult to evaluate the unique and creative contributions to collaborative research of faculty candidates for appointment, merit advancement and promotion, regardless of their series. Furthermore, the descriptors for some faculty series in the Academic Policy Manual (APM), are misleading and in need of revision. To that end, efforts are underway system-wide to revise the APM to reflect the modern research environment.

Traditional indicators, such as Principal Investigator status on grants and consistent position as first or senior author on publications (or other product of joint effort), remain key hallmarks of the successful researcher. However, they are not the sole indicators of success in the present collaborative research environment.

Pending changes to the APM, the Committee for Collaborative Research Evaluation recommended that Department chairs, directors of large laboratories who oversee other faculty, and faculty candidates should include a description and evaluation of the faculty candidate's unique, essential, and creative contributions to collaborative research. Department chairs should take note of the current wording of [APM 210-1-D \(2\)](#), which reinforces the need for the Chair to clearly establish the role of the candidate in collaborative research. To assist in this evaluation, faculty candidates should recommend, and the Chair select, both internal and external referees who are familiar with the candidate's essential and creative contributions to collaborative research, such that the unique contributions of the candidate can be assessed.