

Extension Specialist Case Studies

Case Study 1:

A horticulture extension specialist is located in Umatilla County. She is at a branch experiment station with an animal scientist and a weed scientist. Her position is 100% extension. Her program responsibilities are to conduct scholarly work (15%), provide service (5%) and conduct outreach programs that impact row crop farmers in the Columbia Basin (80%). She has an excellent outreach program; it is having significant positive impact on the producers in the region. She has done an excellent job documenting this impact in her dossier. Because so much focus has been placed on her outreach program, she has only a few refereed journal articles in relatively low quality journals co-authored with the weed scientist. Having no horticulture colleagues with whom to do high quality publishable research has also been a major factor in her lack of published research output.

Case Study 2:

A small grains extension specialist is located on campus at OSU. He is housed in the Department of Crop and Soil Science. His position is 100% extension. His program responsibilities are to conduct scholarly work (15%), provide service (5%) and conduct outreach programs that impact wheat, barley, oats, triticale and other small grains produced throughout the state (80%). He has an excellent research record, due to collaborations with graduate students and faculty on campus. He has published several quality papers in the best journals in the agronomy profession, with several other papers published in other refereed and non-refereed outlets. His publication record is comparable to that of research/teaching faculty on campus. However, because he is so focused on his research activities, he has done only limited outreach work in the state. This has included timely response to field faculty who call with questions. Consequently, few small grain producers know he exists and fewer still have attended his presentations. As a result, he has not been able to provide much in the way of documented evidence to show that his outreach program has had an impact out in the state.

Questions about each case study:

1. Would you vote to tenure this person? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. If you are undecided based on this brief sketch, which way are you leaning (for or against)?
3. If you would like more information before making a decision, what information do you feel will be critical in helping you decide which way to vote on this case?

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