

Service Statement for Jolene Smyth

In my time at UNL I have developed a deeper understanding of how important faculty service is for high quality units and universities, as well as for disseminating faculty expertise to relevant constituents. Through service and shared governance, faculties keep departments, colleges, universities, and professional organizations operating. I have also come to realize how my service work benefits my teaching, mentoring, and research. For both of these reasons I have and continue to develop a commitment to playing an active service role at UNL and in my profession.

Prior to my arrival at UNL the Survey Research and Methodology (SRAM) program was made up of three core faculty, including a new director. Two assistant professors, myself and Dr. Kristen Olson, were hired in the 2007-2008 academic year. Increasing from three to five faculty opened up considerable new opportunities for the program to grow and develop, but being a part of what was still a relatively small faculty trying to run an excellent program meant that all faculty had to go above and beyond usual service duties in order to take advantage of the new opportunities for the program. While my early service contributions were very heavy for a new assistant professor (e.g., serving on all committees in SRAM, serving on many student committees, and extra work outside committee assignments such as developing promotional and recruitment materials for the program), it was clear to me that the service contributions I made, whether they were regular committee duties or extra efforts, were having a significant positive impact on the students and the program. In the first few years I was here I helped develop and institutionalize a curriculum that we, as a small faculty, could maintain, thus improving the student experience and the training they received. As our curriculum grew and formalized and our course offerings became more regular, demand for the program grew. We were able to recruit good students, the number of SRAM minors increased, and we successfully developed and launched an SRAM certificate program.

It also became clear to me that because I have a unique and valued skill set, if I were willing to do some extra service I could use it to strengthen my research and teaching or to bring needed opportunities or positive recognition to SRAM and UNL. For example, providing survey consulting often opens up possibilities for me to piggyback survey methodology experiments on others' surveys. I use similar strategies to create learning opportunities for my students. In 2009, for example, Nielsen agreed to let my students fill out copies of their TV viewing diaries as part of a diary survey section in my Data Collection Methods course in exchange for consultation about a redesign they were currently undertaking. For a couple of hours of my service time I was able to give my students unique hands-on exposure to a unique but important type of survey. They would not have gotten this experience otherwise. I have also been able to leverage my own network and reputation in my field to build opportunities for students such as by nudging large organizations like the Pew Research Center and RTI to develop valuable internship opportunities for or hire SRAM students. In my view, this type of service work pays so many dividends for UNL and SRAM that even though it is not a formal "obligation," it is necessary.

In my time at UNL I have also continued to play an active service role in Sociology by serving on department and student committees. In addition, starting in the summer 2011 I became the co-

Director (with Dr. Julia McQuillan) of the Bureau of Sociological Research. I spent a year in that role before becoming the sole director in Summer 2012. I see my work with the BOSR as a service contribution to Sociology in that BOSR originated out of sociology and is still closely tied to that department (e.g., sociology provides the faculty and administrative support for BOSR), but I also see it as service to the university more broadly. The BOSR is no longer just the research arm of the Department of Sociology; administratively it is housed under the Office of Research and Economic Development and in practice the BOSR provides services to units all across campus including both the social and physical sciences. Thus I see my service to BOSR as service to the broader university. Additionally the BOSR provides services to the Lincoln community and the State of Nebraska, and in my role I contribute to the quality of the services provided. I believe this work is good for the community and the state, but also that it is very important for maintaining UNL's prominent place in the community and the state. In addition, I have been able to leverage my role at the BOSR to bring important research and learning opportunities to my students in the Sociology and SRAM programs. I have worked methodological experiments into BOSR projects to provide student research opportunities, provided internships and job opportunities to unfunded students (thus benefiting BOSR, SRAM and the students), and used survey examples from the BOSR to teach students about methodological and practical aspects of survey research. Because BOSR works closely with the Survey, Statistics, and Psychometrics Core Facility (SSP), I also sit on the advisory board of that facility and provide consultation on SSP projects as needed.

Outside of my official BOSR and SSP duties, I am regularly called on to provide survey consulting or training to faculty on campus as well as people and organizations outside the University. I take on this extra work when I see that it is advantageous to the sociology or SRAM programs, my students, or the larger university. Sometimes the work is for individual researchers and other times it is for organizations or government agencies. For example, I have consulted on UNL ADVANCE surveys, served on CDC expert panels, and attended NSF funded workshops focused on finding ways to link natural and social science data sources. I also teach short courses for the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, The Evaluator's Institute, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Office of Inspector General-Office of Evaluation and Inspection. While I do receive honoraria for these courses, I also view them as service in that I use them to promote and highlight the expertise of the Department of Sociology, SRAM, and UNL and as opportunities to connect with those conducting surveys on a daily basis in ways that help improve the quality of my teaching and research at UNL.

In addition to my service within UNL I am beginning to take on more service roles on a national level. I regularly provide peer reviews of journal articles, conference submissions, and grant proposals. In addition to these tasks, I have become involved in the leadership of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organization (AASRO). The AASRO membership is comprised of the core not-for-profit, academic survey shops (like BOSR) in the nation. These shops are all embedded in larger educational institutions (as opposed to our for-profit counterparts) so they conduct the business of providing scientific survey expertise and infrastructure to researchers while also promoting their institutions' research, education, and service missions. Because of their location within universities, they are central to the advancement of the social, behavioral, and even natural sciences, and AASRO as an organization is committed to promoting excellence in the survey research and science that is conducted in these academic settings. In 2011 I served

on the AASRO Awards Committee and in 2012 I became the chair of that committee. I am currently responsible for coordinating the nomination and award process for an existing award and developing the nomination and award process for a new memorial scholarship award we are developing. I see my role on this committee as an entry point to a more active role in the organizations like AASRO that are central to the survey methodology discipline.

My service contributions to this point in my career are shown below in detail. I hope this record shows that the service work I have done and my upcoming commitments are beneficial on a departmental, university, and national level. I believe they also reveal a trajectory from primarily departmental and program level service to more service at the college, university and national levels. I look forward to future growth in this direction.