CHAIRS MEETING

February 20, 2018

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

AGENDA

- ITS Projects for Faculty Input
- Introduction of Clifton Watson
- The Conversation
- Announcements
- Long-term Planning
- Optional Summer Advising Pilot

ITS – 3 Projects for Faculty Input

- 1.   Replacing Wesfiles - Many options exist today that didn't when we adopted. Current product is no longer supported. Because so many people use it in different ways, and because of how intricately it is tied to many systems on campus, figuring out a suitable replacement will be complicated. Karen will be in charge of this effort.

- 2.   Capital computing allocations and classroom computing needs – there are many who believe that our current method of allocating capital computing resources for faculty should be improved. At the same time, many faculty have advocated that we remove classroom computers and move the savings to the capital computing allocation for faculty. Of course, others feel differently. Rachel will be in charge of this effort.

- 3.   Password management and multi-factor authentication for Wesleyan user accounts. This is something that we have been exploring of late and is led by our new Chief Information Security Officer, Antonio Crespo.

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Introduction

- Clifton Watson, Director of the Jewett Center for Community Partnerships

What is The Conversation?

- A non-profit news organization that publishes writing by those at academic or research institutions. Articles can be republished for free by any news outlet, and frequently appear in outlets like Newsweek, Salon, Business Insider, CNN, etc.

- Articles enrich the public discourse on current events by drawing on academic research. Examples include:
  - Publication of exciting new research
  - An ongoing trend, event or issue in the news
  - An anniversary, such as a book, film, or world event

- The Conversation's tagline, "Academic rigor, journalist flair," captures the collaboration between the scholar and professional editors.

Wesleyan in The Conversation

- Wesleyan became a member institution in Summer 2017.
- Since then, more than 10 faculty members have published articles.
- Examples include:
  - Ashraf Rushdy, "The Art of the Public Apology"
  - Peter Rutland, "Imagining Russia Post-Putin"
  - Royette Tavernier, "Want Better Sleep? Spend Face-to-Face Time with Your Friends and Family"
  - Mike Robinson, "The Real Reason People Become Addicted to Drugs"
- The Conversation provides analytics on republications, unique readers, and social media shares.

How does writing for The Conversation benefit faculty?

- Gives faculty members a voice in broader cultural and scientific debates
- Increases visibility (and citations) of faculty research, enhancing reputation and institutional prestige
- Develops skills to effectively communicate scholarly ideas to the public
- Demonstrates public engagement and impact of research/ teaching (e.g. for grant applications)
- Connects faculty to other colleagues for collaborations

How do articles come about?

- As a member institution, we receive daily Expert Request emails soliciting authors to write on various topics in the news.

- The Conversation also does advanced planning to solicit articles on upcoming anniversaries, events, etc.

- We also pitch articles based on new faculty research, or ideas on how our faculty's expertise relates to current events.

- Pitch article ideas through me, or by filling out the form at theconversation.com/us/pitches
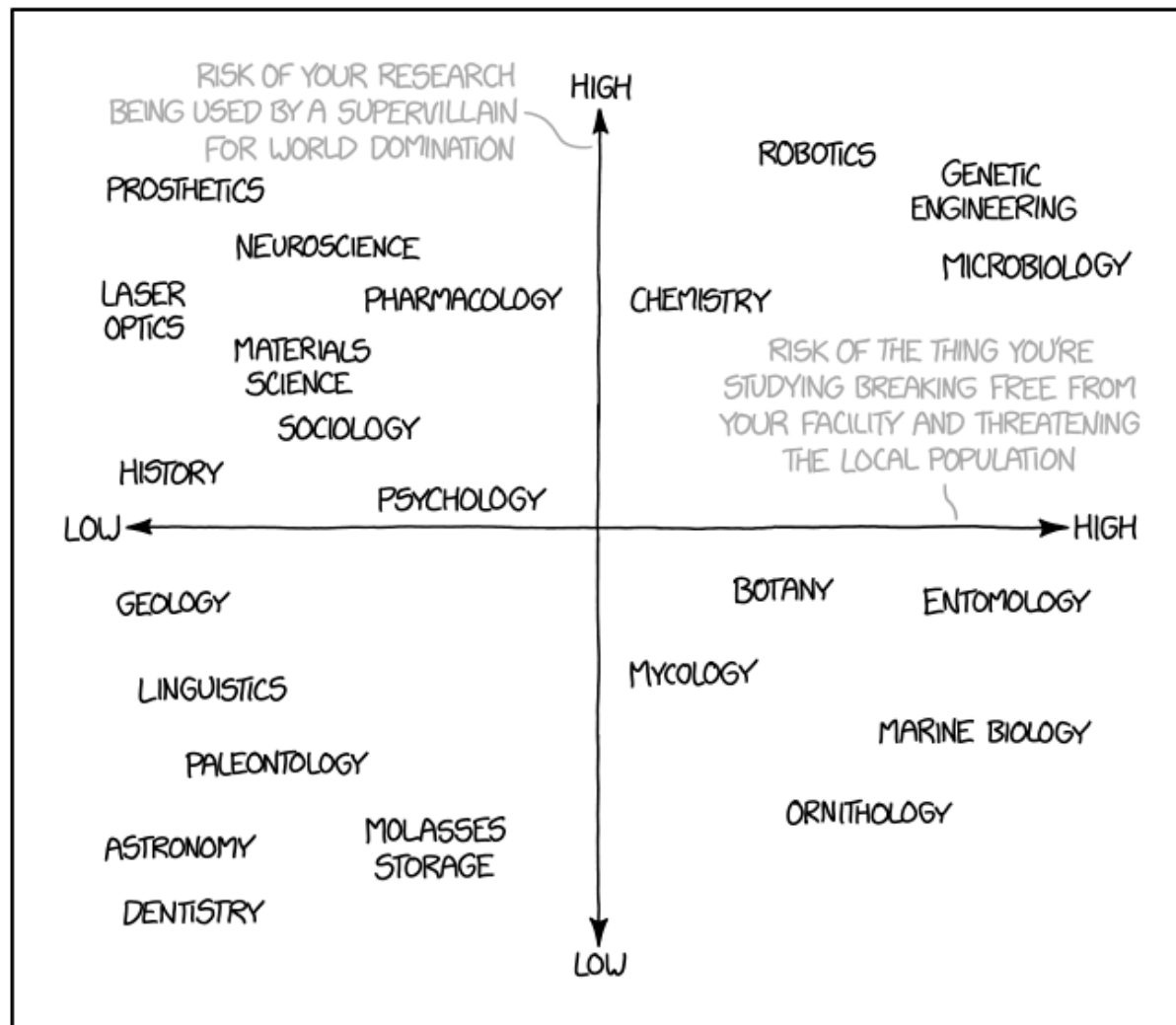
How you can help

- Please help spread the word to your colleagues! This is a great opportunity for them to share their expertise with a broader audience.

- Articles are short (usually around 800 words or less) and can be written in a relatively brief time period, compared to most academic writing.

- Please contact me any time with questions. If there's a lot of interest among faculty in your department, I may be able to arrange an on-campus visit from one of The Conversation's editors to help develop article ideas.
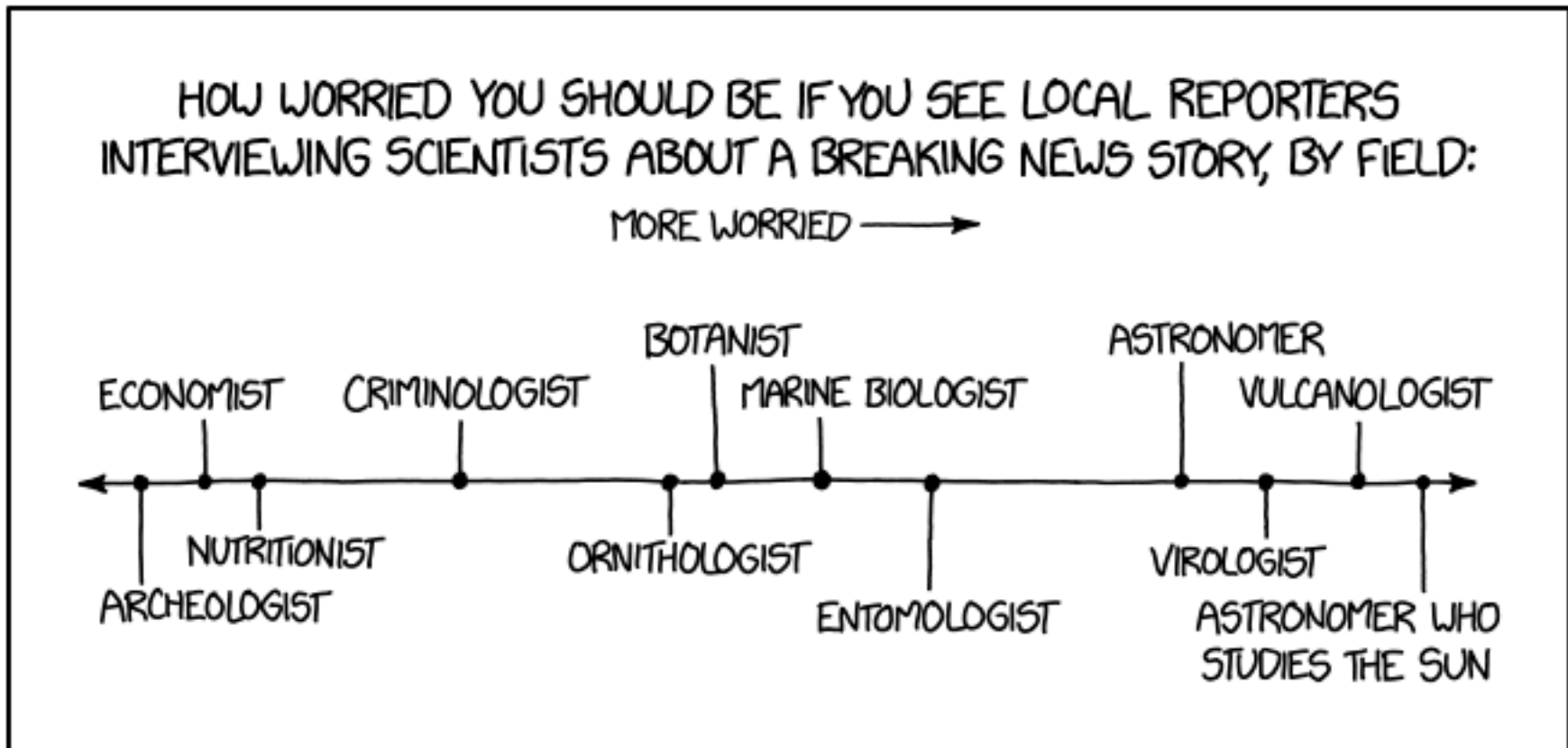
Update on Faculty Requests

- 25 requests submitted
- 10 tenure-track lines available

Research Risks

Worrying Scientist Interviews

Accreditation

- 5-year interim report to NEASC

Department Annual Reports

- As a result of a suggestion that came out of the "garage sale" the upcoming department annual reports will be significantly reduced
- Greater focus on assessment

Academic Data

- New data dashboards are available in WesPortal
- "Institutional Data Reports" – just type "data" in the search tool

Long-term Planning

- Facilities Forums Follow Up
- Community Partnerships

Advising

Wesvising update

Chance to add a video if your dept/college does not yet have one

Schedule:

April 10: script deadline

end April-beginning May: filming

Contact: enerenberg@wesleyan.edu

Summer Advising Pilot

- Summer Faculty Guides

    - **Goal**: to increase contact between faculty members and incoming students during the summer, specifically in July, when first-years are selecting and registering for courses.

Summer Faculty Guides

- Voluntary Faculty Guides
  - Outreach to 50% of the incoming class
  - Participants will be assigned a tranche of 15 students
  - Faculty Guides will have conversations with students in July
  - Honorarium: $250/tranche
  - Report to EPC in Fall 2018

- **Interested?**
  - Contact: enerenberg@wesleyan.edu

THANK YOU!

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 11:50-1:10 in PAC 001