Walking the Talk: Toward a Values-Aligned Academy

APPENDIX A: Research Interview Script

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The HuMetricsHSS Initiative endeavors to create and support a values-based framework that will enable scholars in the humanities and social sciences (HSS) to tell more textured and compelling stories about the impact of their research and the variety of ways it enriches public life. To advance the broad culture change that the HuMetricsHSS initiative envisions requires strategic focus on specific leverage points in the ecosystem of higher education. This second phase of funding includes strategic engagement in the form of targeted interviews with tenure system faculty, administrators, research impact librarians, and research evaluation managers in the Big 10 Academic Alliance (BTAA).

What we hope to understand through our conversation in the next hour is to understand the role you and your office/committee play in research and scholarly evaluation at the university and to better understand the challenges to and opportunities for rewarding what is most valued. Please be assured that confidentiality will be strictly maintained. We will not be recording this session, merely taking notes. Any summarized reports will present comments primarily in aggregate form; when comments are attributed, all identifying information will be removed (gender, rank, subfield, etc.). If there is anything at all that you would not feel comfortable being shared even in the aggregate, please let us know and we will mark the notes accordingly.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Please tell us a little bit about your office/committee and the role you (each) play within that group.
2. What kinds of metrics does your institution gather on faculty research productivity and impact? How are those metrics used, especially within tenure and promotion processes? Which of these do you feel are most effective, especially in ensuring that work you wish to recognize is being properly recognized?
3. What do you feel is missing in the current evaluation process? Is there something you feel you would like to see better recognized? What stories are you currently unable to tell that you would like to tell?
4. Please tell us about a value or values that guide your own work or that you see reflected across the work you see or in your division or the institution as a whole.