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An Exploration of Factors Influencing Faculty Engagement With Open Practices at the School of Education: A Pilot Study

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Exploration of Factors Influencing Faculty Engagement in Open Academic Practices- A Pilot Study

[Funded by the VCU Presidential Research Quest Fund (2021)]

Jessica Kirschner, Jose Alcaine, Sergio Chaparro, Hillary Miller, & Preeti Kamat

Context & Objectives

Open Practices are affordable, open access alternatives of scholarly research & learning that include:

- Publishing open access articles
- Publishing open access books
- Customizing or creating an open educational resource

Context of the study: VCU School of Education

Research Questions:

- To what extent is faculty engagement with open practices influenced by Promotion and tenure (P&T) policies and procedures?
- How does the influence of P&T policies on faculty engagement with open practices manifest in relation to other factors, including intrinsic, extrinsic, and contextual factors?

Methods

Research Design: Explanatory Sequential Mixed-Methods Design
Quantitative Survey:(N=14)

Next Steps

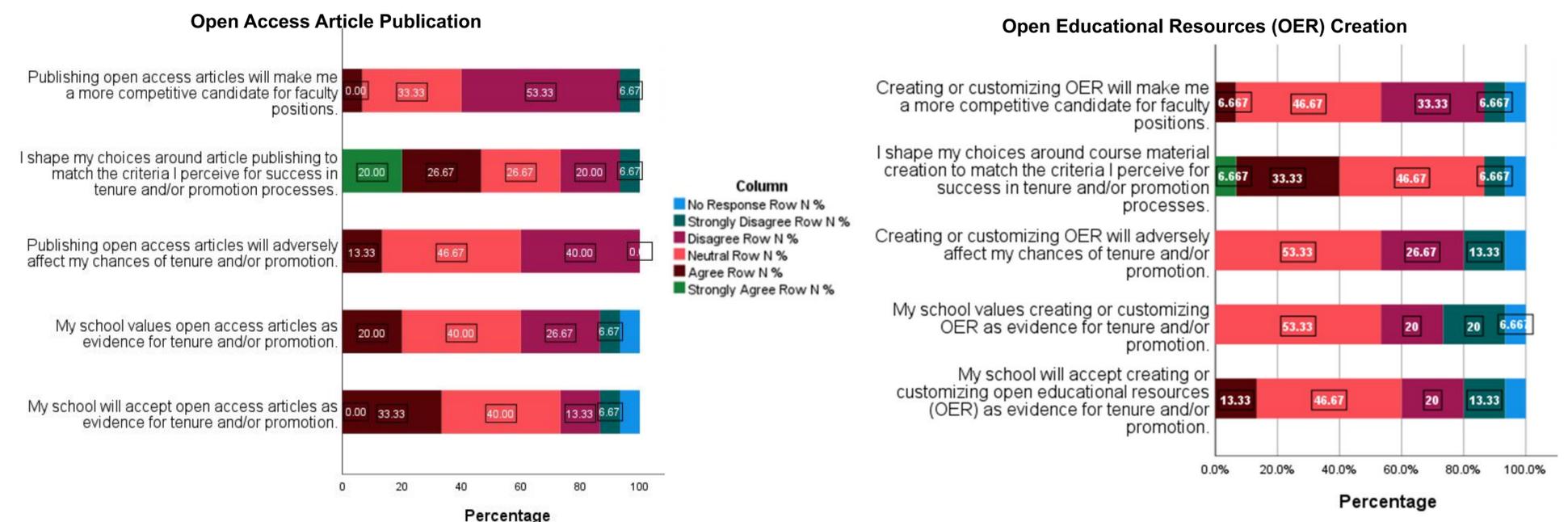
- Conduct focus groups & interviews
- Validate and replicate study design across disciplinary and institutional settings
- Share recommendations based on key findings with VCU stakeholders to potentially increase faculty engagement with open practices

Table 1. Summary of Quantitative Measures (Selected)

Survey Section	Description	Sample item
Open practice engagement	Number of times faculty used open practices in the past five years	“In the past five years, about how many times have you shared your materials in each of the following ways: Published an article in a fully open access journal.”
Promotion & Tenure Values	Faculty perceptions about Promotion & Tenure policy	“How much do you agree with the following statement: The benefit of scholarly work and research products to society should be a key measure of research performance for tenure and promotion processes..”
Open access articles	Faculty perceptions regarding of publishing open access articles	“My school will accept open access articles as evidence for tenure and/or promotion.
Open access books	Faculty perceptions regarding publishing open access books	“My school values open access books as evidence for tenure and/or promotion.”
Open educational resources (OER)	Faculty perceptions regarding creating and /or publishing OERs	“I shape my choices around course material creation to match the criteria I perceive for success in tenure and/or promotion processes.”
Demographic Questions	Gender, age, faculty classification status, rank etc.	“What is your faculty classification?”

Preliminary Results

Percentage of Faculty Perceptions Regarding Recognition for X in P&T Practices



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