

University Professor: Researcher or Employee?

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Abstract: A professor plays an important role in a university. He is more than just a researcher or glorified teacher. He has a passion for acquiring and disseminating new knowledge in his field of specialty. He has numerous responsibilities, from teaching students and assistant to research and administration. Acquiring job security in a tenure-track position is a highly sought after prize for those seeking a career in academia. Tenure provides professors with a life of learning, flexibility, a stimulating work environment, opportunities in different sectors, and the reward of working with young minds. For those who find this lifestyle attractive and are considering professorship as a career, it is important to understand role of a professor. Considering this, unfortunately nowadays one can find in many universities that the task of a university teacher has changed from planner, developer, researcher to the function. In other word he has become an employee, his main concern become salary and traditional teaching. He has been converted into narrowly defined knowledge entrepreneurs and often feels excluded or marginalized as a leader by his own university. The balance among different tasks of a professor i.e. teaching, research, and service, however, differs widely across institution types. Thus the question is :a) what is major role of a university professor? b) Whether a university professor should try to apply his knowledge to facilitate students' better understanding of the study course and provide better services to the society. b) Whether He should take the initiative to attend national and international conferences, seminars, in his field through which he can gain experiences . This study tries to answer these questions.

Key words: University professor, researcher, role, teacher, professorship

1. Introduction

Being a university professor is a big role in the development of society and future generations, does not deny that. The role of a university professor and his effectiveness are linked to his work and update of his knowledge and experience. A professor is more than just a researcher and glorified teacher. The professor's focus is on understanding, gaining insight into, judging the significance of, and organizing old and new knowledge. He is disturbed by the pile-up of undigested and ill-understood new results. He is not happy until he has been able to fit these results into a larger context. He is happy if he can find a new conceptual framework with which to unify and simplify the results that have been found by the researcher. Before going into print, he lets his ideas ripen. Priority is not an issue for him. Perhaps the most important task of the professor is to be the mediator between the researcher and the teacher. Understanding the role of professors should contribute toward understanding the role of universities.

Considering what mentioned above, unfortunately nowadays one can find in many universities that the task of a university teacher has changed from planner, developer, researcher to the function. In other word he has become an employee, his main concern become salary and traditional teaching. He has been converted into narrowly defined knowledge entrepreneurs and often feels excluded or marginalized as a leader by his own universities. Thus the question is :a)What is major role of a university professor ?b) whether a university professor should try to apply his knowledge to facilitate students better understanding of the study course and provide better services to the society. b) Whether He should take the initiative to attend national and international conferences, seminars, in his field through which he can gain experiences . This article is intended not only to illustrate and help professors better understand their own role, but also to help the public at large better appreciate this role

2. Who is a professor?

professor is a scholarly teacher; Literally, *professor* derives from Latin as a "person who professes" being usually an expert in arts or sciences; a teacher of high rank. A professor as an individuals come to the professoriate with specific—professional—knowledge and skills, including content expertise, practice/clinical skills, and research techniques. These skills constitute what may be called the base profession of college faculty. But college professors are immediately called upon to perform at professional levels in four possible roles: teaching, scholarly or creative activities (including research), service to the institution and community, and administration. (Rayner, et al,2010)

3. Duties and Responsibilities of the professors

Professors are qualified experts who generally perform the following:

Each professor is expected to maintain the highest personal standards of character and conduct, to keep abreast of his or her academic discipline through continuing study, research, and/or participation in the activities of his or her professional organization, to strive to improve the effectiveness of his or her teaching, to take a sympathetic interest in the progress and development of each of his or her students, to keep accurate records of academic standing of each student in his or her classes, and to hand in promptly all reports of grades and other information required by the deans, the Registrar, the Provost, or the President.

Each professor is expected to meet his or her classes as regularly scheduled. In case any professor is kept from his or her duties by illness or other disability, he must inform the chair of the department and/or the appropriate dean in advance, if possible, so that arrangements may be made for assignments or a substitute instructor. If a professor finds it necessary to incur an extended absence from his or her regular duties, he must seek approval from his or her dean. In addition, he is expected to maintain adequate office hours so that he or she may be available to the students for conferences. He is also expected to participate in the faculty-student advisory program.

Each professor is expected to attend all meetings of the University faculty and the faculty of the school in which the member teaches, to attend commencements and convocations, to serve loyally and diligently on faculty committees, to assist the chair and colleagues of the member's department in carrying out the program of the department, and to cooperate fully with the trustees, the President, the Provost, and the deans in promoting all the interests of the University. Each university is expected to continue to teach until the end of the session for which his or her services were engaged. During the regular academic session a professor must secure the approval of the Provost whenever they assume additional work for which they receive compensation (other than modest honoraria for activities directly related to their scholarly work.). This is normally allowed provided they do not engage in any occupations that conflict with their University duties, reflect poorly upon the University, or require more than the equivalent of one day per week. A professor manage the teaching, research and publications in their department (in countries where a professor is head of a department), other duties and responsibilities of a professors can be summarized as followings:

- conduct lectures and seminars in their specialty (i.e., they "profess"), such as the basic fields of mathematics, science, humanities, social sciences, education, literature, music or the applied fields of engineering, design, medicine, law, or business;
- Perform advanced research in their fields.
- provide pro bono community service, including consulting functions (such as advising government and nonprofit organizations);
- teach campus-based or online courses adopting instructional technology;
- mentor young aspiring academics (graduate students);
- Conduct administrative or managerial functions, usually at a high level (e.g. deans, heads of department, librarians, etc.).

4. Differences between a Professor and a Teacher

There are important distinctions between a teacher, a researcher, and a pure professor. The teacher's focus is on his students. His task is to convey a fixed body of knowledge to his students and to worry about the best way to do so. He normally follows a textbook and a "syllabus". A very important part of his job is to assign homework and to give tests to find out how much his students are learning. He pays attention to what the students think of him and his performance. He sympathizes with his students' worry about their grades.

The professor's focus is on his subject. He "lives" his subject and cannot easily switch it off, even while lying in bed awake or on vacation. He recreates the subject in his mind each time he lectures on it. He cannot know, in the beginning of a course, exactly how and in what order he will present the material. He may even, in the middle of the course, change his mind about what material to include or exclude. He always tries to find a new approach to and better insight into the subject of his course. He almost never gives a course twice in the same way, and he considers it anathema to have to follow a textbook and a syllabus. He is pleased if some students follow and appreciate his efforts, but he finds homework, tests, and grades a nuisance.

He is happy if he can find a new conceptual framework with which to unify and simplify the results that have been found by the researcher. Before going into print, he lets his ideas ripen. Priority is not an issue for him.

Most students do not know the difference between a teacher and a professor. They expect to be treated in college the same way as they were treated in high school. They do not know that, in college, they should be their own teachers.

One may argue that we need only teachers, and that professors are unnecessary. But without influence from the professor, the teacher's curriculum would soon become more and more outdated and lifeless. Even now, many of the people who write textbooks for elementary courses in mathematics are hacks who have only a very shallow understanding of the subjects they are writing about.

5. Is he a Researcher?

Why the professors enter academic life? What are his aspirations and expectations? And how to increase his experience and achievements in the short term and long term? And what can he do to improve and develop his career? What are the key issues that need to be for academics and aspiring academics taken care of?

The researcher's focus is on the discovery of new results. He is the creator of new knowledge. His nightmare is to get stuck in his search or to learn that what he has found has already been discovered shortly before by somebody else. Priority is very important to him and will sometimes induce him to rush into print prematurely. The professor's focus, on the other hand, is on understanding, gaining insight into, judging the significance of, and organizing old knowledge. He is disturbed by the pile-up of undigested and ill-understood new results. He is not happy until he has been able to fit these results into a larger context.

It is believed that a large number of university professors working in institutions of higher education does not create conditions appropriate for them to do their research to the fullest, and the reason for this is due to the existence of barriers to multiple sources, represented by the lack of a clear material support, and moral, and possibilities, and administrative regulations obstacles, and claustral part-time, and the heavy teaching load, and the perception of inadequate by both: the professor himself, and education policy, and society as a whole

6. Role of professors mired in confusion

An online survey of full professors has revealed that they see their role very differently from the universities that employ them. The 200-strong survey, conducted as part of a project for the UK Leadership Foundation, reveals significant 'expectation gaps' with respect to the importance of income generation, mentoring and the leadership of teaching.

Professors regard income generation as their least important role but acknowledge that their own institutions see this task as one of their top priorities. Just 50% of professors rated income generation as either important or very important to them personally. But, when asked how universities regard this part of their role, the figure became 82. While professors regard helping other colleagues to develop as their most important task, this was ranked only fourth as an institutional expectation. A similar disparity was apparent with regard to the leadership of teaching, demonstrating that professors feel this role is undervalued by universities.

Roles that related mainly to contributions professors make within their universities, including 'representing the department' and 'leadership of teaching', were less highly ranked as institutional expectations.

Since universities tend to see professors as research-oriented cosmopolitans rather than committed locals. As a result, many professors feel under-valued and excluded from the leadership of the university. From an organizational perspective, this is a short-sighted waste of a valuable resource.

Feedback from the survey confirms that professors feel their universities make insufficient use of their expertise. More than half said their expertise was used either 'a little' or 'not at all'.

Fewer than two in five respondents indicated that they played any role advising senior managers, with use of their expertise more typically confined to serving on university committees.

Opinions in the survey were divided regarding the role of professors as managers. Some see their role as research-focused intellectual leaders with minimal responsibilities as managers. According to this view, professors are often poorly equipped to be leaders anyway as their acquisition of the title resulted from the sometimes selfish pursuit of individual research and publication objectives.

But others take a very different position arguing that leadership, at least at the departmental level, should be the preserve of the professor. Here, there is a widely held belief that professors are able to command the respect of colleagues on the basis of their 'academic credibility' compared with career managers without a similar level of scholarly achievements.

The lack of clarity about the role of a professor is partly a symptom of the way that appointment criteria at professorial title have broadened in recent years. Universities now make appointments at full professorial level for

reasons other than research excellence.

This can include significant achievement in practice-based professions, entrepreneurship, excellence in teaching, and service to the institution. The more diverse criteria have resulted in an expansion in the proportion of 'professors' with almost 10% of UK academics now holding this once exclusive title.

While there is no consensus as to whether a professor can be seen as a 'manager' it is clear they are 'intellectual leaders' with responsibilities such as being a role model and mentor to less experienced colleagues, an advocate for their discipline or profession, and a guardian of standards of scholarship. It is important that universities look at ways of developing a clearer role description for professors which could draw on a broader range of their qualities (Macfarlane, 2009)

7. Conclusion: What should be real role of a professor?

Bearing in mind all above discussions, the role of the professor would extend to the fields of welcome involving the bombing of the energies of students, and guidance of their abilities, and broaden their horizons and their knowledge, and build and develop capacity critical and analytical they have, and to contribute in the formation of their characters, building their awareness of cultural, social and humanitarian and support the independence of thinking, and help them to recognize their personalities, and areas of creativity, and fields of their superiority and equip them with the ability to deal systematically with their courses of study, and the development of critical awareness they have, and enhance their ability to sort and scrutiny informational, and provide them with skills they can develop the basics of specialized knowledge that is giving them out, and makes them the center of the educational process and its source, and works on building attitudes, scientific and creative fit with the requirements of the current phase and the challenges dictated by and for the university professor also its role in guiding the behavior of students, and enhance their personal development, knowledge and encouragement.

The university professors are tractor mental, scientific, cultural, and progressive, creative, important and powerful in society, and whenever the preparation of a university professor distinct during the stages of his presence in the university, and whenever there is a student, university professor command him scientifically morally active, aware, positive and neutral in the treatment requested in cases of children of his country and his nation.

If we examine the role that must be done by the professor, we can say that this teacher should be the gateway to the understanding of many issues of interest to the student and the university and the community. Password must be accompanied by a university professor in the tender. The professor, who plays a key role in the educational process to make an effort to explain to the student and the guidance, the professor who is trying to develop good minds of the people, had no difficulty in the development of the same systems and compatibility with the university and the harmony with the subject and with whatever requested eluded things.

Tight, M. (2002) in his book outlined some duties of a professor of the university, including: a university professor must be actively interacting with all the energies of academic and social, involved in campus life with students and directed them outside the classroom at their meetings and activities of social, cultural, sporting, artistic, contributes to the encouragement and incentive to cooperate and volunteering for community service.

The role of university professor and effectiveness are linked to work and update the knowledge and experience, so it should a professor of the university that seeks to employ his knowledge and his knowledge in the service of society. He should take the initiative to attend conferences, seminars, local and global in his field, and that the visits to see the experiences of universities and other countries in the field of public service.

The professors of colleges organize and perform the functions of higher education and engage in a variety of diverse activities, from laboratory experiments and supervision of research postgraduate students, to conduct large lecture to undergraduate students, and write books and textbooks. With the exception of hours teaching specific that can be consumed about three hours a week in graduate school, or about twelve to sixteen hours per week for undergraduate students, the time Professor concentrate heavily on scientific research, and preparation of scientific material for teaching, students and so on. Thus, the profession will best fit what suits those people who enjoy the stimulation and self-motivation and the biggest prize is out of their ability to discover the answers to the problems of origin in their respective areas of specialization. The permanent teachers are characterized by a high degree of job security and the freedom to accomplish their work once one upgrade to a professor (Professor), it defines its responsibilities himself and decide for themselves how to allocate his time between teaching, writing and research, and administrative work. The most difficult years of the university professor is the early years, where there is great pressure on the professor to publish how much distinct from the research work to establish a high-point lead to his promotion to professor (Professor). In any case, the work of Professor emerging and the old professor is very symmetric, and also provide professional stimulation and

cultural freedom for all its members. Now begin some medical schools to deal honestly with excess supply of doctorates in a variety of ways all over the world and many of the college is currently working on this task very difficult We do not deny that there are university professors have crossed these restrictions their intelligence, and maintained their leadership position and Social Council in the community and have won the confidence of university administration and the trust of the community, and gathered with the university administration and the political leadership in intelligent amazing, and balance, distinct, and there may role of career and the title of university, and the impact of safety, and avoid friction and income and outside the university, and spent the rest of his life influenced the lives of families long in the job and died and did not call one line on the blackboard a distinct life

8. Recommendations

ProfsNet is a model of how universities can make better strategic use of the trans-disciplinary expertise of the professoriate. This needs to be inward-facing as well as outward-facing.

1. Since Professors are the heart of academic institutions without whom there could be no productive output and the institutions could not evolve. Thus there should be institutional changes in the way professors are treated such that whatever gaps exist in the universities, in as far as perceptions or actual differences, are narrowed down to the minimum
2. Institutions should developing clearer expectations of professors as Intellectual leaders beyond biblio-metrics. Criteria for *being* not just *becoming* Professor should Balance their role of professors as 'locals' as well as 'cosmopolitans'. They also should resist pressures that narrowly define the role of a professor as a knowledge producer and knowledge entrepreneur

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