Making a Statement

GUIDING QUESTIONS

How can you use your Candidate Statement to help reviewers understand your work?

- How can you highlight your achievements in ways that relate them to your promotion expectations?
- How can the Statement relate your research, teaching, and service to the duties for your position?
- How can you provide a sense of why you are excited about your work, and how it is important?

How can you inform specialist reviewers, and also convey the impact of your work to non-specialists?

- Given that your external reviewers will establish the baseline assessments of your dossier, how can you set out a program of academic contributions that will be seen as advancing important trends in your area?
  - What are the problems, terms, and concepts that will be of most interest to expert readers?
  - How can you help less specialized readers by providing definitions and examples?
  - Can you benchmark the importance of your involvement, perhaps by noting invitations to present your work, the standing of the journals you publish in, or citations of your publications?

- How can you benchmark the progress and impact of your program of work?
  - Accomplishments and Objectives – completed projects, projects in the pipeline
  - What are you planning for the next phase and how you plan to accomplish these goals?
  - What will its impact be, and how will you achieve it?

Should you relate your research to your teaching and service contributions?

- Are there continuities between your research and your teaching philosophy?
- Has your research improved your teaching? For example, have you worked with more graduate students, residents, and/or fellows or helped them in new ways?
- How have your students, department, or other internal and external collaborators benefited from these improvements, for example, through the creation of new courses, programs or partnerships?

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Remember your readers, including the non-specialists. Your reviewers may skim your CV and then look to your Candidate Statement to frame your body of work because they are asked to assess your Regional/National recognition, Clinical expertise, Teaching Performance, Administrative work and Community Activities. However, most of your reviewers will not be specialists in your field and may be more generally concerned with how your work matters.

Less can do more. Do not overload sentences with complex terminology. Use your Candidate Statement to make connections among the work detailed in your CV. Focus on a few central themes to provide a set of take-away points for your readers to assess your work, and use telling details to document its impact.

While narratives can be an appealing way to approach a Candidate Statement, that appeal can be misleading. Reflecting upon what you have done is a crucial first step in the process, but those reflections often need to be recast in a less chronological and more analytical form to develop how your work has advanced and improved. There is no hard and fast rule on how to write Candidate Statements. Your Candidate Statement should be 3-5 pages.