

Contribution and Significance of Research: This paper discusses the perceptions of research professors with regard to serving stakeholders. This work is based on the 1990 report by Boyer. The authors do a good job describing the background of the study, leading the reader through the periods that shaped how the current university system operates. They do an excellent job of describing the theoretical framework and describing the purpose and objectives of the study. The research design and methods are clearly laid out and well written.

Questions for Consideration: Several questions can be asked based on this study. The first of these focuses on the study population. Professors in a forestry department were chosen to participate. Why not conduct a sample of all departments in the college versus only one department? Using a broader and more representative sample would likely increase the ability to generalize the results of this study.

Second, was there a protocol developed for the interviews. It is mentioned in the paper that no two interviews were alike, but a “general” line of questioning was used. How alike were the interviews and how many individuals conducted them? Concerns about the reliability of the data arise when no clear protocol is used.

The next question concerns the findings. Were there any findings that were unusual or unexpected? It appears that the findings might be expected.

Finally, how do we really change these perceptions? What substantial recommendations can be made that will be ‘put in place’. It seems as though we talk about this issue a great deal, but nothing really happens.

Final Thoughts: This paper does a good job discussing a topic that can be very sensitive in nature. The implications of research of this nature are potentially profound, but what must occur before changes are ‘real’ is probably still unknown.