

# Interdisciplinary/Collaborative Research: getting recognized

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# Interdisciplinary Effort: institutional support

Within the University of California

- Interdisciplinary research is enshrined in the ORU (Organized Research Units):

*“A structure to facilitate research, provide students with opportunities, & carry out public service programs across traditional disciplinary boundaries. ORUs are interdisciplinary in nature & work across the breadth of the UCLA campus.”*



# Interdisciplinary research at UCLA: ORUs



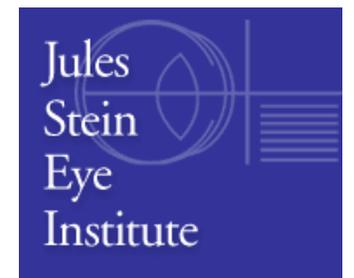
BRAIN  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE  
UCLA

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Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies



CRUMP INSTITUTE for  
MOLECULAR IMAGING



# Collaboration: departmental support

- Hybrid departments (e.g., Bioengineering)
- Use of **joint** or **split**\* appointments
- Your responsibility is to clarify departmental policy about interdisciplinary effort, especially in teaching:
  - Teaching in an IDP is as valuable as a Departmental course.
  - In the medical school (DGSOM), teaching is not departmentally based, but
  - In primarily undergraduate departments, the pressure is to teach in departmental offerings.

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\* A split appointment refers to the practice of sharing a "tenure home".

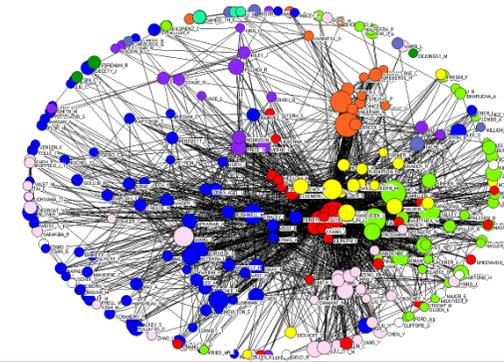
A joint appointment is a courtesy appointment in another department reflecting shared interests/research.

# Collaboration: perceived tension



Entrenched disciplinary structure/orientation

Emphasis on the independent, lone creative force



More holistic approach to complex problems

Funders' emphasis on interdisciplinary collaborations



# Collaboration: Promotion



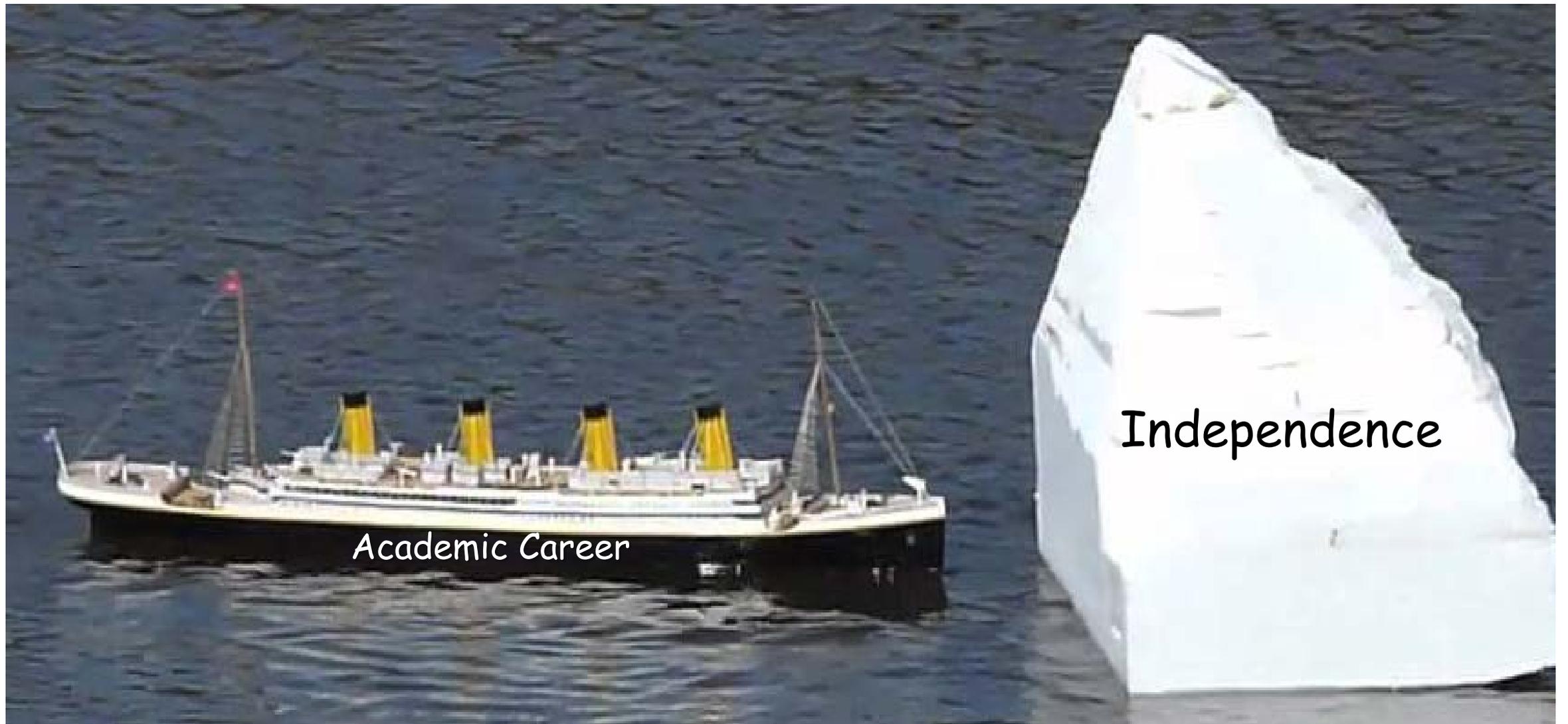
## The *bowling for tenure* triad

- Research: achieve a national level of prominence (“**have a story**”)
- Teach (as defined by the department)
- Be a good citizen (i.e., collegial, interactive, committee service)

## Council on Academic Personnel (CAP) – University of California

- Campus (UCLA)-wide committee for promotions and appointments
- 14 senior faculty
- Serves a quality-control function

# Independence



*Academic Career*

Independence

