

Robert Craig Group

STATEMENT ON SERVICE

I see my opportunities for service in four main areas: to the physics department, to the university, to my research field, and to the general public.

In my 12 years here at UVA I have served on many committees in the physics department, as listed in my CV. My favorite departmental service so far was 8 years as the faculty advisor the the Society of Physics Students and the physics honor society, $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$. My philosophy with SPS is to let the students lead their group. However, I encouraged their activity and negotiated with other department leadership resources to support SPS efforts. I held meetings at the beginning of each semester with officers, and take past and newly-elected officers to lunch each year after the election to ensure a smooth transition. During my time as advisor, SPS was quite successful and we were recognised by the national SPS organization as an “Outstanding” or “Distinguished” each year. I was also honored to be nominated by the students twice for the national SPS advisor of the year award.

At the college level I served on the Arts and Sciences Committee on Personnel Policy, and the Dean’s Task Force on Peer Review. Durring this time our primary work was to review what departments were doing for peer review in research, teaching, and service, and to provide a document summarizing best practices consistent with our observations. It was an eye-opening experience to work with colleagues from across the university. I have had little chance for service at the college or university level so far, but I do look forward to helping to guide the university for decades to come.

I have been very active in service to my research field, as can be seen in my CV. I am an active reviewer of articles for several journals, I have served on the organizing committee for several international conferences, I often serve as conference session chairs, and judges of student work. I particularly enjoy efforts to incorporate junior members of our field into these service efforts and serving as a mentor to young researchers in my field.

Early in my career I spent significant effort on service to the public and outreach efforts to the general public and to politicians. For example, while a post-doc, I gave many tours of Fermilab facilities to various groups such as high school students and teachers and the general public. Now, I encourage my students and post-docs to do the same. For four years I was a member of the annual trip to DC to advocate for particle physics funding, and I was a major organizer of the trip for two of those years.

Due to my time as SPS advisor, and other mentorship activities I’ve learned that I most enjoy service when it leads to improved student and other early-career researcher outcomes. I look forward to service for UVA, but especially to the opportunity to mentor and help with the career trajectory of students, researchers, and junior faculty.