

# *Collaborative Research: Choosing a Co-Author*

The School of Business  
Faculty Scholarship Committee

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Harold Koch, Recorder

## Criteria / Ideas we can employ (1)

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- Pair up with a UVSC colleague: the SOB receives two AACSB scholarship credits; it is also easier to communicate and meet (this criteria is less attractive if your favorite co-author is from Harvard!)
- Look for different / complementary research skills. If you are good at (and really enjoy) the literature search and writing and s/he is good (and really enjoys) working with SPSS it is more enjoyable and efficient. We don't have to be good at everything!
- If one of the co-authors has published before in the research area or in the target journal, a "hit" is more probable
- Make sure both have the same "work ethic." Are they *reliable* for a weekly meeting? Will they complete assignments *on time*? Are they *thorough*? Can they dedicate *three hours per week* given their schedule?

## Criteria / Ideas we can employ (2)

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- Don't permit "free riders" (those who need an article but don't really want to contribute and work). Granted, if the other person is famous this is hard to resist, but in the long term it only makes both parties uncomfortable and strains personal relationships
- Look for somebody who has presented and or published before if *you* have not. After the first time you can then also reach out
- One of the co-authors should be a "pusher" (a person who makes sure that each week progress is made in spite of busy schedules); Procrastination is less preferred to being a bit pressurized and pushy!
- One person should have the proper academic credentials and/or professional credibility so as to be more attractive (and credible) to the target journal and its readership

## Criteria / Ideas we can employ (3)

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- If possible, choose a co-author you respect not only professionally but personally. Scholarship is part of the academic “job” but the job is only part of our “lifestyle”. Long-term friendships are often the result of co-authoring (and make coming to work fun)
- Writing styles are appropriate for academic, peer-reviewed journals. A person who has a humorous style should look for somebody who can edit and prepare text appropriately
- The topic should touch a “hot spot” for both. The more important it is the better the paper/article will be

## Criteria / Ideas we can employ (4)

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- Read other people's ideas on collaboration: Bob Hinings ("Rhythms of Academic Life")
- Some relationships will be dysfunctional; sometimes personalities, current positions, distance, etc. Accept that and go on!
- Choose a partner from whom you can learn! Each person has a special "optic" and unique ideas
- Agree upon goals and have a clear understanding of relationship and approach
- Make sure both feel free (and are able) to communicate ideas and feelings during the process
- See the process like a football game. If you played an entire game on both defense and offense you would last one quarter. If you "platoon" it is less tiresome, there is greater synergy, and we "score more."
- Unifies and makes the Department closer / collegial
- Involve students, they contribute much more than just the "grunt" work. And it helps us gain fame as a generator of graduate quality students

## Criteria / Ideas we can employ (5)

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- Draw up an initial contract where each person knows their expectation