

General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting #24
September 20, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

John Reynolds, Co-Chair
Nancy Arthur, Academic Co-Chair *
Thomas Baumgartner
Alicia Lunz
Michael Nesbitt
Hermann Schaetzel
Tannin Schmidt
Joseph Sparling
Lisa Young
Gerald Zamponi

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi

Regrets

Abubaker Abdelhafiz
Thomas Hickerson
Anne Katzenberg
Tom Keenan
Andy Knight
Alan McLuckie
Karen Then
Roger Thompson
Rose Tobias
Alain Verbeke

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren, Governance Coordinator

**by telephone*

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the September 20, 2016 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair

The Co-Chair included the following in his remarks:

- New and returning members were welcomed to the first Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) meeting of the year
- The Co-Chair briefly reviewed the history and role of the Committee
- The Co-Chair reported that:
 - The University has been awarded \$75 million over seven years from the federal Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) for a clean energy technology project entitled *Global Research Initiative in Sustainable Low Carbon Unconventional Resources*. The process used in selecting this project for the University's application for the CFREF funding included careful consideration of the priority research themes articulated in the University's Strategic Research Plan.
 - The University has also been awarded \$78 million from the federal Strategic Infrastructure Fund (SIF), for eight key infrastructure projects. The SIF funding will be supplemented by provincial funding, philanthropic donations, and allocations from the University's budget. The eight projects include the High Density Library expansion, research field stations upgrades, Science A building redevelopment, research infrastructure renewal, utility reduction program, Veterinary Medicine Clinical Skills Building expansion, and two renovation projects in the Engineering Complex.
 - The four Alberta Innovates corporations will be rolled into a single Alberta Innovates corporation as of October 1, 2016. There is uncertainty regarding how the provincial government will fund this new corporation and what programs it will operate, and it is expected that some Research Chair programs will not continue.
 - The University is working on a submission to the federal government's Fundamental Science Review
 - The University is preparing applications to the Alberta Innovates - Technology Futures strategic research initiatives program
 - Carolyn Emery, former Academic Co-Chair of the RSC, has been appointed as the Post-Doctoral Program Director. She is forming a committee of post-doctoral scholars to advise her, and her early priorities are to facilitate the orientation and professional development of post-doctoral scholars.

In response to questions, the Co-Chair stated that:

- It is possible that there may be additional CFREF funding in the future, but this is not likely in the short term
- The University of Calgary and the University of Alberta are working together to address overlaps in their proposals that received CFREF funding
- The University, through its President, Provost, and others, actively communicates with the federal government regarding matters such as the importance of Tri-Council funding and the need for universities to have input into the identification of federal research and innovation priorities

The Academic Co-Chair reviewed the RSC's role. Members were encouraged to come to meetings prepared to participate in discussion and debate.

3. Approval of the May 24, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on May 24, 2016 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Research and Scholarship Committee 2016-2017 Work Plan

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. John Reynolds, Co-Chair, and Nancy Arthur, Academic Co-Chair, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Academic Co-Chair reviewed the purpose of the Committee's Work Plan, and noted that some items may change or emerge over the course of the year
- The Co-Chair reviewed the items on the Work Plan
- In response to a question, the Co-Chair reported that, when the Strategic Research Plan comes forward for renewal in the Spring, it is expected that undergraduate research will be considered as part of the process. Students are encouraged to offer feedback during the renewal process.

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the RSC Work Plan for the 2016-17 academic year, in the form provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. Draft Terms of Reference for Endowed Chairs/Professorships

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. John Reynolds, Acting Vice-President (Research) presented this item.

Highlights:

- The RSC learned that the Development and Alumni Engagement Office and the University Legal Services Office are seeking to simplify and standardize the Terms of Reference (TOR) for Endowed Chairs and Professorships
- The proponent reported that the TOR for a particular Endowed Chair or Professorship will be developed using this template, and will be approved by the appropriate Dean and the Vice-President (Research)
- The RSC reviewed the draft Terms of Reference template, and offered suggestions for consideration including:
 - That Deans' Council should be asked to discuss how programs will be protected if an active faculty member is awarded an Endowed Chair or Professorship that includes relief

from regular duties

- That the format and timing of the reporting and renewal process be made flexible, depending on the recipient's experience and need for mentoring
- That the size and composition of the Advisory Committee be carefully considered
- That the TOR template include a statement that the template is flexible and can be adapted to meet a Faculty's needs
- That the TOR template set boundaries regarding the establishment of an Endowed Chair or Professorship, in order to protect academic freedom
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The amount of funding for an Endowed Chair or Professorship varies depending on the donor, but the standard is \$5 million
 - A donation is rarely used for salary support. An Endowed Chair or Professorship is similar to a grant, and the funding is used to directly support research.
 - A donor's opinions are considered when the TOR for an Endowed Chair or Professorship is developed
- It was agreed that the proponent would consult with the Development and Alumni Engagement Office regarding the existing guidelines for the establishment of Endowed Chairs and Professorships, and would report this information back to the RSC
- The proponent indicated that he would bring a revised draft TOR template back to the RSC for further discussion at a future meeting

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

The September 20, 2016 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.