

General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 26
November 22, 2016, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

John Reynolds, Co-Chair
Nancy Arthur, Academic Co-Chair
Thomas Baumgartner
Tom Keenan
Andy Knight
Alicia Lunz
Michael Nesbitt
Hermann Schaetzel
Tannin Schmidt
Roger Thompson
Run Ze Yang
Lisa Young

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi
Anne Katzenberg – left during Item 4

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Jeremy Haasdyk
Thomas Hickerson
Alan McLuckie
Joseph Sparling
Karen Then
Rose Tobias
Alain Verbeke
Gerald Zamponi

Guests

Jerome Beaudoin, Chief Information Officer – present for Item 4

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the November 22, 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:

- The University's *Eyes High* strategy is currently undergoing renewal, and then the Academic Plan and Strategic Research Plan (SRP) will be renewed. Meetings are currently being held to review the successes of the grand challenges included in the last SRP, such as Energy Innovations for Today and Tomorrow, and to consider possible new themes, challenges and initiatives.
- The University leveraged internal funding to obtain a Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) for Steven Bryant and to receive funding from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) in the energy area, and it is hoped that the other University priority research areas will achieve similar growth
- Examples of activities relating to the University's current SRP research platforms include:
 - A well-attended town hall that was held yesterday and involved persons interested in the Brain and Mental Health platform
 - An Engineering Solutions for Health thought leaders meeting that will be held tomorrow relating to Biomedical Engineering
 - A town hall for persons interested in the Infections, Inflammation and Chronic Diseases platform that will be held soon

The Committee briefly discussed that, when the renewed SRP moves through the governance system for discussion in 2017, consideration will be given to the examples of research strengths that are highlighted in the document and the chosen research priority areas. It was noted that the University has strengths in the arts, humanities, and fine arts research areas as well as in the science, medicine, and technologies research areas, and that it will be important to highlight a variety of research strengths in the new SRP.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The CFREF funding has all been allocated, and it is uncertain whether there will be additional funding from this program in the future
- There will be another CERC competition in May 2017. The University's focus, strengths, and international recognition in the Engineering Solutions for Health area mean that the University has a good opportunity for a CERC in this area.

The Academic Co-Chair reminded the Committee that they are welcome to suggest items of business for the Committee.

3. Approval of the October 18, 2016 Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on October 18, 2016 be approved.

Carried

4. Research Computing in the Managed Environment (Secure Computing Program)

Jerome Beaudoin, Chief Information Officer, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that Information Technologies (IT) has initiated a number of recent changes to address risks faced by the University, and noted that IT is aware that many of these have impacted researchers
- The presenter noted that the malware incident in May 2016 escalated some of the changes that IT was already planning in order to mitigate risks to the University. In particular, the malware incident drew attention to the University's unmanaged environment.
- It will be necessary for members of the University community, including researchers, to adjust their activities to fit the new IT operating environment. Before the malware incident, approximately 70% of devices were unmanaged, but it is hoped to significantly reduce this number.
- The presenter reported that the Secure Computing Program (SCP) is being piloted in the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) in order to demonstrate that it is possible for researchers to work effectively in the managed environment
- The SCP consists of the following specific services: data collection tools, secure data storage (this will vary by Faculty, but at minimum will be 10 gigabytes per project), data analysis, data sharing, and long term storage
- The presenter then reviewed the benefits of the SCP:
 - Protecting researchers from data breaches or non-compliance by ensuring the security of their data
 - Preventing loss of data
 - Potentially saving researchers money, since they no longer need to engage third parties to provide data storage
 - Leveraging computing power beyond an individual's desktop
 - Ability to scale the environment to meet project needs
- Access to secure data storage will be available to researchers beyond the CSM pilot in the first quarter of 2017, and the other components of the SCP (data analysis tools, data sharing, and data collection tools) are slated to be available in 2017-2018. Long term storage will be available at a later date.
- The RSC discussed matters including that:
 - Devices running older systems (e.g. Windows XP) will remain unmanaged. IT will work to understand the requirements and determine if there is any opportunity to upgrade these older systems.
 - Managed devices will have agents on them to assure compliance according to the University's policies and operating standards. Managed devices will be able to download approved software. IT will work with the community to understand and validate what would be classified as approved software in order mitigate risks to the University and provide automated abilities to download without IT intervention. Previously-loaded

software will be updatable providing access is granted to do so.

- Products like Drop Box or Google Drive used to store and share data are relatively insecure and create risk and exposure to the University
- The University is investigating a number of solutions that will provide storage like Drop Box, but with much greater structure around security, access and controls while still providing the ability to manage data through a secure environment regardless of location
- In response to questions, the presenter reported that:
 - Unmanaged devices, including the computers of students, will not be able to access the University's secure managed networks
 - Both Macs and Windows computers can be migrated to the managed environment
 - At this time, migration to, and storing data within, the managed environment remains voluntary
- The Co-Chair invited members of the Committee to send any additional comments or feedback directly to the presenter

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the November 22, 2016 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.