General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 28
February 21, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.   A167

Voting Members	*Non-Voting Members*
John Reynolds, Co-Chair Designate	Hamid Habibi
Nancy Arthur, Academic Co-Chair	Rose Tobias
Thomas Baumgartner	
Thomas Hickerson	*Secretary*
Tom Keenan	Susan Belcher
Andy Knight	
Alan McLuckie	*Scribe*
Michael Nesbitt – arrived during Item 3	Elizabeth Sjogren
Tannin Schmidt	
Joseph Sparling	
Run Ze Yang	
Lisa Young	

Regrets
Jeremy Haasdyk
Anne Katzenberg
Alicia Lunz
Hermann Schaetzl
Karen Then
Roger Thompson
Alain Verbeke
Gerald Zamponi

Guests
Christie Hurrell, Digital Initiatives and Scholarly Communication Librarian – present for Item 4
Bob Jenkins, University Systems Enabling Research (USER) Program Manager – present for Item 5
Anthony Cabri, Research Services – present for Item 5

The Academic Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded
That the Agenda for the February 21, 2017 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.
Carried

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

The Co-Chair reported that Alberta Innovates will be renewing its Summer Studentships program for 2017 at the same funding level as in previous years.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

3.   Approval of the January 24, 2017 Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. One revision was requested.

Moved/Seconded
That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on January 24, 2017 be approved, with the requested amendment.   **Carried**

4.   Predatory Journals: Should the University Undertake Action/Education?

Documentation containing a link to an online article was circulated with the Agenda. John Reynolds, Associate Vice-President (Research), and Christie Hurrell, Digital Initiatives and Scholarly Communication Librarian, Libraries and Cultural Resources (LCR), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reviewed the characteristics of a 'predatory' journal, which include; deceptive fees, publishing work quickly, publishing work with minimal peer review, and published works that are not permanently available

- The presenters reported that Beall's list, an academic librarian's directory of 'predatory' journals and publishers, is no longer accessible online

- The Committee discussed:

  o   That it can be difficult to differentiate between legitimate administrative publishing fees and predatory fees

  o   The viability of developing an internal black list (a directory of predatory journals/ publishers and/or a white list (a directory of credible journals/publishers) to assist the University's researchers

  o   That it is important to educate junior faculty, post-doctoral scholars, and graduate students in taking care where they publish their work, and that staff in LCR are available to assist members of the campus community with discipline-specific guidance

- The Committee suggested that presentations on the issue of 'predatory journals' be given at Faculty Council or Department meetings, to an Associate Deans (Research) meeting, and during graduate student seminars in order to raise awareness

5.   Update on the Research Management System

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Bob Jenkins, USER Program Manager,

Research Services, and Anthony Cabri, Research Services, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reviewed the goal of the Research Management System (RMS) Project, which is to enable researchers by establishing a streamlined, one-stop electronic interface system for the application, certification, administrative oversight, and reporting requirements for research projects. The RMS project has been underway for eighteen months, and is now entering the implementation phase.

- The presenters then demonstrated the chosen new research information system, Coveris, through the grant lifecycle (pre-award through post-award stages), from both the researcher and Associate Dean points of view

- The presenters reviewed other sources of data, such as PeopleSoft, that will interface with the Converis system

- The presenters reviewed the RMS project timeline, noting that the project is progressing well. The conversion from eRSO (the current Research Services Office database) to Converis is underway, and the steps over the next year include interfacing a funding calendar, expanding the system to include more grants and awards, and fine-tuning of the interface.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:

    o The RMS will not automatically transfer information to the merit and promotion annual reporting system at this time

    o Converis is able to draw in data from Researcher ID (a website where invited researchers create profiles)

    o The RMS eliminates the need to obtain hardcopy signatures

    o The RMS will improve work flow by automatically routing any necessary project administration (e.g. approval) to the next person in the process, and Converis will clearly show the stage of a project

    o Anyone with access to a research project's entry in Converis (e.g. the project's Research Facilitator) can add comments

    o Persons with approval authority will be able to filter projects within the Converis system and will have the option to bulk approve items

    o Post-doctoral scholars are currently listed in the Converis system directory. It may be possible to list a graduate student as a project team member, but graduate students are not currently included in the directory.

    o At this time, there are no plans to tie the RMS to the patent process

    o Some pre-award processes (i.e. legal contracts) will not be automated, but once a contract is established, the overarching project can be included in the Coveris system

- The presenters reported that training videos will be produced, and experienced users will be able to assist researchers in learning the Converis system

- The presenters invited any additional feedback to be sent directly to them

- The Academic Co-Chair indicated that the presenters will be invited back to update the Committee on the RMS project later in the process

6. <u>Other Business</u>

There was no other business.

7. <u>Adjournment</u>

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the February 21, 2017 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary