

General Faculties Council  
**RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting 29  
April 25, 2017, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

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***Voting Members***

John Reynolds, Co-Chair Designate  
Nancy Arthur, Academic Co-Chair  
Thomas Baumgartner  
Tom Keenan  
Alicia Lunz  
Michael Nesbitt  
Hermann Schaetzel  
Joseph Sparling  
Roger Thompson  
Lisa Young

***Non-Voting Members***

Hamid Habibi  
Anne Katzenberg

***Secretary and Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Jeremy Haasdyk  
Thomas Hickerson  
Andy Knight  
Alan McLuckie  
Tannin Schmidt  
Karen Then  
Rose Tobias  
Alain Verbeke  
Run Ze Yang  
Gerald Zamponi

***Guest***

Ed McCauley, Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 4

***Observer***

Tina Miller, incoming Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The Co-Chair reported that an information item has been added to the agenda: "Process for the Renewal of the Academic and Research Plans".

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the April 25, 2017 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved with the reported amendment.

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

The Co-Chair reported that he and the Vice-President (Research) have discussed holding a joint meeting of the Research and Scholarship Committee and the Associate Deans Research Council, and that dates in June are being considered. At the joint meeting, topics of discussion will include the report to the federal government from the Naylor committee regarding federal funding for fundamental research.

The Academic Co-Chair remarked that Tim Wilson, Executive Director of the Research Grants and Partnerships Division of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), provided information to the campus community on recent changes to the SSHRC funding schemes and that information about this will also be circulated by Research Services.

**3. Approval of the February 21, 2017 Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on February 21, 2017 be approved.

**Carried****4. Comprehensive Institutional Plan Appendix C: Research, Applied Research, and Scholarly Activities**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Ed McCauley, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The proponent reported that the format of the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) Appendix C: Research, Applied Research, and Scholarly Activities is different this year, and that the Executive Leadership Team has endorsed the draft currently being circulated for feedback. After a rigorous consultation period, some chapters of the CIP, including Appendix C, will be recommended by General Faculties Council (GFC) and then the entire CIP will be approved by the Board of Governors (BG) in June.
- The proponent reviewed the content of the document, and emphasised that the document relates to the priorities expressed in the University's Academic Plan and Strategic Research Plan
- The Committee discussed:
  - The need to identify emerging research priorities
  - That it is important to emphasise how the University's research priorities tie to the

- provincial government's priorities
- That the University embraces new modes of research such as open source sharing of information
- The Committee suggested that:
  - It be made clear that the University's researchers engage in both applied and fundamental research
  - Additional examples of research strengths be included
  - The four priorities be re-ordered, and that the boxes highlighting the priorities be formatted consistently
  - The system linkages statement be revised to read that the University partners with institutions from "Alberta, Canada, and abroad"
- The Co-Chair reported that the Committee will receive an updated draft of this document at its May 30, 2017 meeting, and will be asked to recommend that the GFC recommend its approval by the BG

## **5. Process for the Renewal of the Academic and Research Plans**

Documentation for this item was tabled at the meeting. Ed McCauley, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenter reported that, now that the *Eyes High Strategy 2017-2022* has been approved, it is necessary to renew the University's Academic Plan (AP) and Strategic Research Plan (SRP), which were both approved in 2012. The AP and SRP will be developed in parallel this time, rather than developing the AP first.
- The presenter remarked that it is thought that the University still needs a separate research plan, and emphasised that, while there are three priorities expressed in the AP and seven priorities expressed in the SRP, these do not replace any Faculty research plans
- The presenter then reviewed the process that will be followed for renewing the AP and SRP in the coming months, including that the information collected through the Energizing *Eyes High* consultation will be reviewed, a new questionnaire will be sent to the campus community in May, and that drafts of the new plans will be broadly circulated for feedback in the Fall. Formal approval of the renewed AP and SRP is expected before the existing plans sunset in December 2017.
- The committee discussed:
  - How the University has developed since the SRP was approved in 2012, such as in improved processes, recruitment, sponsored research funding, research chairs, postdoctoral fellowships, and new invention disclosures, and that this is a testament to the success of the SRP
  - That the University does not have a siloed structure, and that there are opportunities for researchers to collaborate with other researchers on projects
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that the renewal of the AP and SRP will involve a broad consultation process

**6. Other Business**

In response to a question, the Committee briefly discussed how the proposed changes to the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) in relation to labour relations may impact researchers. It was agreed that it would be beneficial, perhaps at the joint meeting with the ADRC, to hear from a representative from Human Resources about these changes to the PSLA and to discuss the impacts.

**7. Adjournment**

The April 25, 2017 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

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Elizabeth Sjogren  
Meeting Secretary