

General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 31
September 19, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

John Reynolds, Co-Chair Designate
Nancy Arthur, Academic Co-Chair
Eric Donovan
Andy Knight
Alan McLuckie – left during Item 7
Tina Miller
Joseph Sparling – arrived during Item 2
Roger Thompson
Annette Timm
Run Ze Yang
Lisa Young

Non-Voting Members

Jeremy Haasdyk
Hamid Habibi

Secretary and Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Jasmine Girgis
Thomas Hickerson
Tom Keenan
Hermann Schaetzl
Karen Then
Alain Verbeke
Gerald Zamponi

Guests

Ed McCauley, Vice-President (Research) – present for Items 5 and 6
Susan Skone, Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 7

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the September 19, 2017 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:

- Members were welcomed to the first Research and Scholarship Committee meeting of this meeting year, and in particular, Eric Donovan and Annette Timm were welcomed to their first Committee meeting
- The role of the Committee was reviewed
- Alberta Innovates, now a conglomeration of the four previous Alberta Innovates corporations (Bio Solutions, Energy and Environment Solutions, Health Solutions and Technology Futures), is currently determining its mandate and priority programs
- The Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning promotes the scholarship of teaching and learning through many initiatives that may be of interest to the Committee

The Academic Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- There are many factors that impact research at our University, such as national programs, and the Committee's meetings allow members to be informed and to share this information with others. The Committee also offers feedback on a number of research-related matters.
- There will be a number of interesting items of business before the Committee this year, including the renewal of the University's Research Plan

3. Approval of the May 30, 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 May 30, 2017 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Research and Scholarship Committee 2017-2018 Work Plan

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair reported that all General Faculties Council standing committees prepare work plans at the beginning of each meeting year
- The Committee reviewed the draft work plan
- The Committee made the following revisions to the work plan:
 - The Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking information item will be received in October not September

- The Committee should receive an update from the Postdoctoral Office in January on matters relating to postdoctoral scholars
- In addition to the anticipated items listed on the work plan, other business may arise over the course of the year. Members of the Committee are asked to communicate with the Co-Chairs if they have ideas for items of business.

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the RSC Work Plan for the 2017-2018 academic year, as set out in the form provided to the Committee, and with the requested amendments.

Carried**5. Establishment of the Institute of Energy**

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

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that a multidisciplinary Institute of Energy is being established as part of the implementation of the Energy Research Strategy and the Strategic Research Plan's priority research theme Energy Innovations for Today and Tomorrow. The University received a Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and funding from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) in the area of Energy Research, and the establishment of a sustainable Institute of Energy was an institutional commitment listed in the applications for these awards.
- The institute will be housed in the Energy Environment Experiential Learning (EEEL) building and the University Research Centre across 24th Avenue
- An internal competition will be held to name an interim Academic Director for the institute. When his CERC term ends, Steven Bryant will assume the position of Academic Director.
- The Committee discussed:
 - The proposed mandate and structure of the institute, and how it relates to the CERC, CFREF, and other initiatives intended to increase research capacity
 - That the institute will position the University as a hub for energy research, and will bring faculty, post-doctoral scholars, and graduate students together to collaborate
 - That the faculty associated with the institute will have appointments within a number of Faculties; there will be no faculty appointments within the institute itself
 - How the institute, and the recruited faculty, will be funded going forward
- The Committee suggested that the proposal elaborate on renewable energy research opportunities
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The University's Global Research Initiative on Sustainable Low Carbon Unconventional Resources, which will be delivered through the institute, is fully funded by the CFREF and

existing collaborations with Mexico, China, and Israel. A proposal is being developed to build collaborations with Germany.

- The University could, in future, seek additional funding for renewable energy research
- The governance structure of the institute provides for community and Indigenous engagement through events with the institute's Advisory Board
- The Co-Chair reported that this item will return to the committee at a future meeting, for recommendation

6. Canada 150 Research Chair Program

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

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that the federal budget announced in February 2017 allocated one-time funding to a Canada 150 Research Chair Program, which will fund 15-35 non-renewable chairs across the country. Only researchers living and working outside of Canada are eligible for recruitment.
- The University submitted nominations by the September 15, 2017 deadline, seeking chairs in the areas of data science, health informatics, concussion, and cybersecurity research
- The Committee discussed that diversity is important, and learned that there is a 50/50 gender balance in the University's four nominations
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that the University ensures that all externally funded chairs will be transferred to Faculty base funding once their term as a chair has ended

7. Canada Research Chair Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susan Skone, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter described the Canada Research Chair (CRC) program's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan, and the Committee learned that institutions are required to develop their own comprehensive EDI Action Plans by December 15, 2017, to achieve equity targets for four groups: women, Aboriginal Peoples, persons with disabilities, and visible minorities. The University's action plan will include an environmental scan, strategies to achieve targets, transparent procedures for the recruitment of CRCs, a data collection plan, and strategies for inclusivity and retention in the workplace. Institutions are expected to meet their equity targets by December 2019.
- The Committee learned that the University's targets for its CRCs are for 30% to be women (currently at 22%), 1% to be Aboriginal Persons (currently at 0%), 4% to be persons with disabilities (currently at 0%), and 15% to be visible minorities (currently at 25%), and learned that a single CRC could be counted towards meeting two or more target groups

- The presenter reported that the CRC program will scrutinise the University's CRC advertisements and progress toward its targets
- In response to a question, it was explained that people are counted if they self-identify
- The Committee discussed:
 - The complexity of self-identification, as some people may not wish to disclose things such as an invisible disability or other aspects of personal identity related to the four groups
 - That it should be determined whether the term Aboriginal or Indigenous is the correct term in this context
 - That the University currently has 55 CRCs, some of which are still at the recruitment stage, and it is anticipated that the University will have more CRCs by 2019. The University is fortunate to have so many CRCs, which puts it in a good position to reach its targets.
 - That excellent CRCs should be renewed for a second term, even if they do not fit into one of the target equity groups
 - That, while the University must be able to demonstrate reasonable efforts to include candidates from the target groups in each CRC applicant pool, the CRC program auditors should accept that this may not be possible for some disciplines
 - That the action plan currently only applies to CRCs and not to other positions, such as provincially-funded chairs, but that the equity recruitment practices could inform other hiring
 - That retention of strong individuals is crucial but challenging, and that the University must have a strategy to enable success and promote satisfaction
- The Committee requested an update on the University's progress toward its targets at a future meeting

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the September 19, 2017 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Secretary for the Meeting