General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 35
February 20, 2018, 2:00 p.m.   A167

Voting Members   *Non-Voting Members*
John Reynolds, Co-Chair Designate   Jeremy Haasdyk
Andy Knight, Academic Co-Chair   Hamid Habibi
Thomas Hickerson
Tina Miller – left during Item 5   *Secretary and Scribe*
Hermann Schaetzl   Elizabeth Sjogren
Ashkan Tehrani
Karen Then
Annette Timm
Lisa Young – left during Item 5
Gerald Zamponi *

Regrets
Andre Buret
Eric Donovan
Jassmine Girgis
Carolyn Emery
Tom Keenan
Alan McLuckie
Sylvie Roy
Roger Thompson
Rose Tobias
Alain Verbeke
Run Ze Yang

Guest
Kevin McQuillan, Deputy Provost – for Item 4

* by telephone

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved/Seconded
That the Agenda for the February 20, 2018 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:

*   Andy Knight was welcomed in his new role as the Academic Co-Chair of the Committee

*   The University's 2018-2023 Research Plan was launched at an event held February 8, 2018. Some initiatives were announced at the launch, including: the funding for the University's PURE awards program is being doubled, round 4 of the Eyes High Postdoctoral Fellowship program will be funded, the University Professor program will continue, there will be an increase in graduate scholarships, and funding for the implementation of the Indigenous Strategy, Mental Health Strategy and for teaching and learning initiatives will be provided.

*   D'Arcy Moynaugh has started his appointment as the University's Chief Information Officer. He is familiar with the University from when Deloitte assisted the University after the 2016 malware incident, and, once he becomes established, will provide leadership to explore information technologies initiatives such as cloud storage and high performance computing.

*   The University was very successful in the last Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grants competition, with a greater than 20% success rate. The Cumming School of Medicine provides information sessions on applying for CIHR grants, has a robust peer-review system for the preparation of grant applications, and offers a bridging program for researchers pursuing funding, all of which contribute to success in this area.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

3. **Approval of the January 23, 2018 Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on January 23, 2018 be approved.

Carried

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4. **APR System Development and Academic Development and Promotion Initiative**

Kevin McQuillan presented this item.

Highlights:

*   As background, the presenter reported that the procedures for promotion and tenure have recently been negotiated into the Collective Agreement (CA) with the Faculty Association (FA), and moved out of the Appointment, Promotion and Tenure Manual approved by the General Faculties Council and the Board of Governors. Examples of changes to the procedures under the CA include: the awarding of promotion and tenure is now done in tandem, and the General Promotions Committee is populated differently and is now called the General Merit Committee. Academic staff are still assessed every two years.

*   The presenter then reported on a current initiative to replace and combine the University's

Academic Performance Review (APR) and Academic Report Online (ARO) systems, and the Committee was informed that the new system will be used for assessment, promotion and tenure processes. The presenter explained that a request for proposals has been issued, a vendor will be recommended by the initiative's steering committee, and then the new system should be implemented in time for the Spring 2019 assessment process.

- The Committee discussed:

  o The research-related aspects of the initiative, including the ability to import publication data for reporting purposes

  o The need for a system that functions well across all disciplines

  o That reporting criteria for teaching/research-focused academic staff members and administrative/libraries/counselling-focused academic staff members are different

  o That it would be useful to be able to import citation data, and that, since internationalization is a priority for the University, there should be a clear way for an academic staff member to report on efforts relating to this. The presenter reported that any changes to the reporting format would have to be negotiated with the FA.

  o That a system developed by a university might suit the University's needs better than a system developed by a private company. The presenter assured the Committee that the steering committee would carefully consider the options resulting from the request for proposals.

  o That the current ARO system removes any formatting, so the information in a report can be difficult to read

  o That, currently, it is difficult to report teaching in multi-instructor courses and work in clinical practice

  o That some individuals report very personal information (e.g. illness) in their annual report, and so consideration must be given to who can access the information entered into the new system. The presenter noted that the new system should allow academic staff members to mark some information as private.

  o That if units such as the Office of Institutional Analysis will have access to information in the new system, for example to prepare a report on internationalization at the University, the data available to the unit should be anonymized

- In response to questions, it was reported that:

  o It is intended that academic staff members will be able to enter information into the new system throughout the year, rather than during a committed period. The presenter reiterated that the new system will serve as a repository for information to be used for both the assessment and promotion, and tenure processes.

  o Migrating past APR and ARO records into the new system is a goal, but will be a separate project

- The Committee suggested that the initiative's steering committee be asked to consider as a function of the new system, the ability to export data from the system for other purposes, such as for grant applications

5. Predatory Publishers and Predatory Conferences

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Tom Hickerson, Vice-Provost (Libraries and Cultural Resources), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reviewed the characteristics of predatory publishers and predatory conferences, such as poor peer-review and editing practices, and the Committee was provided links to tools to help the academic community, including:
  - o A rubric to help authors evaluate the credibility of journals (http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/librarian_pubs/40/)
  - o A directory that indexes and provides access to quality open access and peer-reviewed journals (https://doaj.org/)
  - o A site that provides a checklist to help authors evaluate the reputability of any given publication (https://thinkchecksubmit.org/)
  - o An online research guide to aid in the evaluation of the reputability of publishers and conferences (http://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/scholarlycommunication/predatory)
- The Committee discussed:
  - o The risks to the academic community (researchers and students) in affiliating with non-peer-reviewed journals and conferences, including the spending of limited finances, damage to reputation, the difficulty or impossibility of re-publishing the work elsewhere, and the failure to reach the desired audience
  - o The deceptive practices followed to lure persons into publishing with predatory journals or registering for predatory conferences
  - o That previously legitimate publication operations are being bought by predatory entities
  - o Ways to increase awareness at the University of the existence of predatory journals and predatory conferences, including through presentations to a variety of units, a dedicated website, a UToday article, and word of mouth
  - o That there are some databases listing reputable publishers, such as those compiled by Thompson-Reuters or PubMed, but that these are not reliable for all disciplines
- In response to a question, the presenter reported that the popular list of illegitimate journals compiled by librarian Jeffrey Beall, of the University of Colorado, was taken down in 2017 due to pressure from predatory publishers. At this time, no university will compile and make public a similar list, in part because it would be very difficult to keep current.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. <u>Adjournment</u>

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the February 20, 2018 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary