

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

Meeting 42  
March 26, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

A167

***Voting Members***

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair  
Andy Knight, Academic Co-Chair  
Tom Keenan – left during Item 5  
Regine King  
Sylvie Roy  
Cathryn Ryan  
Hermann Schaetzel  
Annette Timm  
Robin Yates – left during Item 6  
Gerald Zamponi

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Elena Favaro  
Jeremy Haasdyk  
Hamid Habibi  
Dawn Kingston  
Seok-Woo Kwon  
Raylene Reimer-De Bruyn  
Jessica Revington  
Mary-Jo Romaniuk  
Roger Thompson  
Rose Tobias

***Guests***

D'Arcy Moynagh, Chief Information Officer – present for Items 4 and 5  
Abdel Yousif, Director, Research Computing, Information Technologies – present for Item 4

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The 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 March 26, 2019 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:

- Cathy Ryan, Faculty of Science, and Robin Yates, Faculty of Graduate Studies, were welcomed as new members of the Committee
- The Research and Scholarly Activities appendix of the University's Comprehensive Institutional Plan is in development, and will be presented to the Committee in April for discussion
- The University's University Systems Enabling Research (USER) program is being re-launched, and the Committee will receive a presentation on this at the April meeting. The Tri-Council is moving to a principles-based model for allowable expenditures, and one benefit of the USER program is that it will facilitate researchers in being able to demonstrate compliance with this.
- The offices of the Vice-President (Research) and Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) are working together to identify opportunities to marry initiatives relating to the Research Strategy and the Indigenous Strategy
- The recently-announced federal budget includes funding for a number of research-related initiatives
- Steve Larter has been appointed as the University's new Associate Vice-President (Research - Innovation)

The Academic Co-Chair invited members to suggest items for discussion at future meetings of the Committee.

## **3. Approval of the January 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

<b>Moved/Seconded</b>
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That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on January 22, 2019 be approved.
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<b>Carried</b>
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## **4. Research Computing**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Abdel Yousif and D'Arcy Moynagh presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the role of the Research Computing Services unit at the University, and highlighted the variety of services provided by the unit, including:
  - Enabling research and teaching and learning initiatives that require big data analytics and storage
  - Training and support for workflows
  - Custom programming, debugging, and optimization

- Assisting with new faculty start-up packages
- Benchmarking and performance analysis
- The Committee discussed that it is important to ensure that members of the campus community know about the Research Computing Services unit and the services provided, as it was observed that many people operate unnecessarily independently, such as to buy servers and resolve issues. The presenters reported that presentations are being given to groups such as the Associate Deans (Research) and this Committee, in order to increase awareness.
- During discussion, the Committee learned that:
  - There are risks to transporting data on a laptop, and the Research Computing Services unit can provide supports to securely encrypt and transfer data
  - By default, users are not administrators on their University-provided computers, but greater control can be given upon request
- In response to questions:
  - It was confirmed that the Research Computing Services unit's services are complementary to any institutional and departmental initiatives, and to the Compute Canada infrastructure
  - The presenters remarked that, if the Research Computing Services unit cannot supply something that a user needs, such as a specialized software, the user should be referred to another unit within Information Technologies that can provide assistance

## **5. Research Management System**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), and D'Arcy Moynaugh presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the current status of the University's Research Management System (RMS) project, and informed the Committee that the project is under the supervision of a new manager. The Committee was reminded that the purpose of the RMS project is to streamline systems, including through the use of online forms, automated approvals, online signatures, application status tracking and automatic approvals notifications, and connected interfaces.
- The Committee was informed that training is now available, that the pre-award functionality of the project is expected to begin roll-out in June 2019 and the post-award functionality will begin roll-out in November 2019, and that the RMS should be fully implemented by the late summer of 2020
- During discussion, the Committee learned that some of the programs for inclusion in the initial roll-out will include certain Alberta Innovates, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council granting programs, and that other programs may be included if initially compatible. Remaining programs, such as the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, will be included in 2020.
- The Committee discussed that it is desirable to:
  - Develop the capability for signing authorities to be able to sign using devices such as mobile phones

- Consider the possibility for some delegation of authority
- Ensure that the platform is searchable

**6. Approved 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Meeting Schedules**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

The Co-Chair confirmed that the Committee will meet on Thursdays beginning in 2020-2021.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the March 26, 2019 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary