

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

Meeting 48  
May 19, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

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***Voting Members***

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair  
Andy Knight, Academic Co-Chair  
Semhar Abraha – arrived during Item 2  
Karen Benzies – left during Item 5  
Lyndsay Campbell – arrived during Item 2  
Carolyn Emery  
Michael Hill – left during Item 7  
Tom Keenan  
Alex Paquette  
Mary-Jo Romaniuk  
Sylvie Roy – arrived during Item 2  
Cathryn Ryan – left during Item 6  
Hermann Schaetzl  
Annette Timm

***Non-Voting Members***

Hamid Habibi

***Secretary and Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Claire Kamaliddin  
Regine King  
Dawn Kingston  
Seok-Woo Kwon  
Mary Lou Mendyk  
Robin Yates

***Guests***

Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research) – present for item 5  
Michael Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) – present for Item 7  
Brock Kahanyshyn, Chief Information Officer – present for the first part of Item 6  
Abdel Yousif, Director - Research Services – present for Item 6

***Observer***

Jaclyn Carter, University Secretariat

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the May 19, 2020 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:

- The office of the Vice-President (Research) has a Critical Research Process, which in part requires approval by a Head or Associate Dean for a research project to continue during the COVID-19 closure in order to ensure that sufficient resources, such as caretaking, are in place. The definition of 'critical research' has been expanded to include time sensitive research, field research, and necessary research for graduate students and post-doctoral scholars, in order that more projects can return to operation at this time. The University is following the province's directives for safe relaunch, but individuals who can work from home should continue to do so.
- The Committee was thanked for its work this meeting year

The Academic Co-Chair welcomed Alex Paquette, Vice-President (Academic) of the Graduate Students' Association, and Semhar Abraha, Vice-President (Academic) of the Students' Union, on this occasion of their first meeting as members of the Research and Scholarship Committee (the Committee).

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- A graduate student may apply to return to their laboratory through the Critical Research Process, but approval will be needed. Some graduate students are proceeding with modified research projects.
- The re-opening of live animal laboratories will also happen through the Critical Research Process. There may be a delay in opening these, but applications may be submitted at this time.
- It will likely be necessary for researchers in multi-person laboratories to wear protective equipment and/or work in staggered shifts in order to ensure safety
- A modified shipping and receiving process is in place
- Multiple communications will be sent to the University community about re-opening plans and the continued importance of actions such as social distancing and hand-washing upon return to campus
- The University is not fully closed, and a person should contact their unit's main office if they are having difficulty entering their building to retrieve materials

### 3. Approval of the April 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on April 21, 2020 be approved.

**Carried****4. Annual Committee Performance Review and Review of the RSC Terms of Reference**

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

**Highlights:**

- The co-chairs noted that the Committee had issues with achieving quorum at its meetings, and not receiving all of the items of business that had been placed on its work plan
- Discussion included:
  - The overlap in memberships and items of business between the Committee and the Associate Deans Research Council (ADRC) is a concern. The Co-Chair noted that the ADRC is a committee of the Vice-President (Research) and the Committee is part of the General Faculties Council's governance structure, and that it was not intended that the Committee be populated by Associate Deans (Research) but rather by regular academic staff members from across the Faculties. The Co-Chair noted that there is one seat on the Committee assigned to a representative of the ADRC and that seat is meant to be the bridge between the two bodies. The Co-Chair indicated that he would ask the Vice-President (Research) to recommend that the Deans reconsider how their Faculty's representative on the Committee is chosen, as it would be desirable to have a broader range of perspectives providing feedback on the items of business.
  - That the members of the Committee should be sharing the information they hear at meetings with their colleagues, such as through reporting at Faculty Council meetings, if the information is not be disseminated in another way
  - The Committee determined that no changes to its Terms of Reference, including changes to its membership, would be put forward at this time

**5. Research Plan Update**

Bill Ghali presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The Committee received an update on the progress being made in implementing the University's Research Plan 2018-2023. The presenter included a summary of the Research Plan's established and emerging collaborative research themes, and identified a variety of initiatives currently underway. The Committee was informed that a report on the implementation of the Research Plan will be coming forward in the Fall.
- In response to a question, it was reported that the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities has been communicating with the Tri-Council about responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on

researchers, but that an increase to Tri-Council overhead funding has not been specifically discussed

## **6. Research Computing Services**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Abdel Yousif and Brock Kahanyshyn presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee received a presentation on the Research Computing Services (RCS) unit, which is a thirteen-person team reporting to the University's Chief Information Officer. The presenters reported that the RCS unit's services include custom programming, assisting with new faculty start-up, helping with high performance computing (HPC) requirements, offering trainings such as in HPC or in the use of statistical programs, and software installation and support for IT-licensed software.
- The presenters then highlighted examples of research projects that have involved the RCS unit
- In response to a question, it was reported that a RCS website is in development, and this should help to raise awareness of the services that the RCS unit provides

## **7. Indigenous Research at the University of Calgary**

Michael Hart presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter spoke about matters pertaining to Indigenous research at the University, including:
  - The Office of Indigenous Engagement is expanding, with an Indigenous Strategy Team Manager recently hired and two other hiring processes underway
  - The Indigenous academic staff member population at the University is approximately 25 people, and the demand upon them is higher than for most academic staff members
  - Indigenous academic staff members now serve on a number of research-related bodies, including the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board and Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board
  - An internal scan of Indigenous research in the Faculties has been completed and is available upon request. It is intended to repeat this scan every three years to capture any changes.
  - Four metrics relating to Indigenous research have been established
  - The Research Plan's One Health strategic research group has formed, and is currently developing its grand challenges, and the Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) is involved with that in part by facilitating connections between Indigenous research and Indigenous communities
  - One of the Indigenous Strategy's Ways of Being recommendations is that the Indigenous voice should be represented in the University's governance system. The Committee was

asked to consider this when it reviews its Terms of Reference, as important business comes through the General Faculties Council's standing committees and the Indigenous perspective would be valuable at early stages.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The First Nations Information Governance Centre has a training course, "Fundamentals of OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession)", which is available to anyone who wishes to learn about the OCAP principles for how Indigenous data should be collected and used, and the standard for how to conduct research with Indigenous communities
  - Research Services staff members Amber Bedard, Manager of the Indigenous Research Support Team, and Alex Kanters, Research Ethics Analyst, are working to build processes at the University to support Indigenous research
- Discussion included that:
  - Indigenous academic staff members are in high demand for service on a variety of bodies, and these persons are busy in many ways. It was suggested that, rather than formally expanding the membership of a body, an Indigenous person could be consulted or invited as a guest when a body's business could benefit from the perspective of an Indigenous scholar or community member.
  - It is important to have meaningful Indigenous engagement. It was noted that the University's SUPPORT Networks, Centres and Major Grants Programs Committee would benefit from receiving training in how Indigenous persons can be engaged in research of all types, so that the committee can be confident when providing advice to applicants.
  - It is necessary for there to be champions in all units, advocating for the meaningful incorporation of Indigenous ideas into research and curriculum

## **8. Open Data, Data Governance, and Open Access**

Item withdrawn.

## **9. Research Management System Update**

Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that the closure due to COVID-19 has delayed the next launch phase of the University's Research Management System (RMS). The next release of the platform will occur in June, and the RMS will be fully functional by the end of February 2021. When fully launched, the RMS will be a management tool for the pre-award, post-award and publication stages of a research grant or contract.
- In response to a question, the presenter indicated that questions relating to the RMS should be directed to the Research Services office

**10. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**11. Adjournment**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the May 19, 2020 meeting.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

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Elizabeth Sjogren  
Meeting Secretary