General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 49
September 17, 2020, 2:00 p.m.   By Zoom platform

Voting Members	***Non-Voting Members***
Robert Thompson, Co-Chair	Hamid Habibi
Andy Knight, Academic Co-Chair	
Lyndsay Campbell	***Secretary and Scribe***
Carolyn Emery	Elizabeth Sjogren
Sabine Gilch – left during Item 4	
Claire Kamaliddin	***Staff***
Tom Keenan	Jaclyn Carter
Alex Paquette – left during Item 5	
Cathryn Ryan – left during Item 7	
Dora Tam	
Annette Timm	

Regrets
Semhar Abraha
David Eaton
Michael Hill
Dawn Kingston
Seok-Woo Kwon
Thomas Oldenburg
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Sylvie Roy
Robin Yates

Guests
Susa Benseler, Cumming School of Medicine – present for Item 4
Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research) – present for Items 4-6
Emma Koiston, Manager - External Grants and Interim Director, Grants, Awards and Ethics – present for Item 7
Dawn Litzenberger, Research Management System Project Director – present for Item 7
Penny Pexman, Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Items 4 and 5

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. <u>**Approval of the Agenda**</u>

> **Moved/Seconded**
>
> That the Agenda for the September 17, 2020 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.
>
> **Carried**

2. <u>**Remarks of the Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair**</u>

The Co-Chair included the following in his remarks:

- Sabine Gilch and Dora Tam were welcomed on this occasion of their first meeting

- The role of the Committee was reviewed, in particular that it brings together experienced researchers with a broad set of viewpoints to provide input and feedback on matters relating to the University's research enterprise

- The University is gradually re-opening after a phase of partial shut-down due to COVID-19. The Critical Research Designation and Expanded Research Designation allowed some researchers to be on campus, and while it is no longer required for researchers to apply through the Expanded Research process, researchers are still encouraged to continue to work in a virtual or work-from-home setting where possible.

- The period for preparing Tri-Council grant applications is beginning. There has been some uncertainty about competitions, but current information is available on the Research Services website.

- The Growth Through Focus Vision will likely generate some business for the Committee to discuss this year

The Academic Co-Chair noted that active participation in the Committee's discussions is a great way to give feedback on research issues, and encouraged members to do so.

3. <u>**Recommendation of the 2020-2021 Research and Scholarship Committee Work Plan**</u>

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

Highlights:

- It was noted that many of the Committee's items of business are driven by the Office of the Vice-President (Research), and that the Committee can expect to receive updates on the University's Strategic Research Themes which are under review this year

- It was reported that items of business beyond those listed on the work plan will be added to the Committee's agendas as they arise

- There were no questions

> **Moved/Seconded**
>
> That the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the RSC Work Plan for the 2020-2021 academic year, in the form provided to the Committee.
>
> **Carried**

4. Child Health & Wellness Research Strategy

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Susa Benseler, William Ghali, and Penny Pexman presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that Child Health and Wellness was selected by the Vice-President (Research) as an emerging cross-cutting research theme of the Research Plan in 2019

- The presenters then gave a presentation on the Child Health and Wellness Research Strategy, which has been developed over the past year, and in particular reported on its community of scholars, priorities, goals, objectives and grand challenges

- Discussion included:

  o That researchers from a broad range of disciplines are welcome to engage with the initiatives connected with the strategy

  o That the tool for evaluating the success and measuring the impacts of the strategy is impressive, and sets out a good process for doing and communicating this

  o That the Child Health and Wellness research theme intersects with several of the six established research themes of the Research Plan, and that there will be opportunities to develop new partnerships and engagement

  o The term "adverse childhood experiences", and that this includes childhood emotional trauma and childhood sexual trauma

  o That funding can be leveraged in order to grow scholarship, including internationally

5. Eyes High Postdoctoral Match-Funding Program

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Penny Pexman and William Ghali presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the Eyes High Postdoctoral Match-Funding Program, which is an evolution of the original 2014-2019 program made necessary by current budgetary restraints. The presenters explained that the new program will provide partial salary support to enable faculty to support postdoctoral scholars who will be competitive for external funding.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:

  o The postdoctoral scholars funded through this program are intended to be new to the University, but that some exceptions may be made

- o While postdoctoral scholars are required to apply for all external awards and grants that they are eligible for, and while this could take significant time, these competitions take place every six months
- o Early career supervisors will be considered for funding as well as long-term supervisors
- o Supervisors can work together and combine funds in order to provide the other half of the postdoctoral scholar's salary and apply to the program

6. **VPR Catalyst Grants Program**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. William Ghali and Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the Catalyst Grants Program is a new internal stimulus grant program recently launched by the Vice-President (Research), and replaces the University Research Grants Committee (URGC) seed funding programs. The presenters reported that the program will award funds to be leveraged to secure substantial external funding for a project, and that there will be four competitions per year.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - o The Catalyst Grants Program is for all disciplines
  - o The external funding does not have to be Tri-Council funding
  - o The University has another program, UCeed, that is a seed funding program to support innovation, commercialization of new technologies, and the acceleration of University startup companies

7. **Research Management System – Tri-Agency Programs Implementation**

Emma Koiston and Dawn Litzenberger presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the recent Research Management System (RMS) launch phase will allow for the management of Tri-Council and other applications this fall
- The presenters reported that the RMS process includes pre-award and post-award components, that the University's Research Services Office has internal deadlines in order to allow for the review of applications and the obtaining of signatures, and that training is available for persons new to the RMS system
- Discussion included:
  - o The RMS training session is valuable, and fellow members were encouraged to access this
  - o That there is some confusion about whether the RMS is used for all grant applications, such as Alberta Innovates PRIHS grants, and it was recommended that the RMS team be contacted for assistance

8. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

9. **Adjournment**

Moved/Seconded
That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the September 17, 2020 meeting.
Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary