



General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 55
May 20, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair
Andy Knight, Academic Co-Chair
Lyndsay Campbell – arrived during Item 2
David Eaton – arrived during Item 2, left during Item 4
Carolyn Emery
Sabine Gilch – arrived during Item 4
Michael Hill
Claire Kamaliddin
Tom Keenan – arrived during Item 2
Dawn Kingston
Alex Paquette
Renzo Pereyra
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Sylvie Roy
Dora Tam
Annette Timm
Robin Yates – arrived during Item 2

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi
Thomas Oldenburg

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff

Tasha Hodzic

Regrets

Seok-Woo Kwon
Cathryn Ryan

Guests

Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research)

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 May 20, 2021 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, outgoing Academic Co-Chair of the Committee, was thanked for his commitment to the Committee since 2015-2016 and his service as the Academic Co-Chair since 2017-2018
- Dora Tam, Faculty of Social Work representative, has been named at the Academic Co-Chair of the Committee effective July 1, 2021
- Dawn Kingston, Seok-Woo Kwon, Sylvie Roy, and Annette Timm were acknowledged on this occasion of their last Committee meeting, and Renzo Pereyra was welcomed to his first meeting
- Efforts are being made to increase recognition of advancements in equity, diversity and inclusion in research initiatives
- The Growth Through Focus framework continues to move forward

The Academic Co-Chair thanked the Committee for their contributions.

In response to a question, it was reported that there is no indication that the deadline to submit Notice of Intent to apply for external awards will be shifted from this summer, but there will be an opportunity to extend current grants if an extension has not already been received. The Committee discussed that there is confusion about if/when researchers need to apply, and the Co-Chair indicated that this will be investigated and clarifying messaging will be sent to academic staff.

3. Approval of the March 18, 2021 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 March 18, 2021 be approved.

Carried

4. VPR Portfolio Year-end Update

Bill Ghali presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter highlighted the work within the Vice-President (Research) portfolio this year, including the establishment and later expansion of the Critical Research Designation, management of changing funding deadlines and new external funding programs, development of workspace safety plans, launch of the VPR Catalyst Grants program, formation of the Indigenous Research Support Team, growth of the Knowledge Engagement Team, facilitation of the University's endorsement of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), launch of the UCeed funding program, and review of various policies. The Committee was

informed that the Vice-President (Research)'s portfolio has four mandates: 1) to measure and communicate research impact, 2) to enhance institutional capacity 3) to maximize opportunities for impact, and 4) to oversee administrative and regulatory files.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The Vice-Provost (International) (VPI) is associated with both the Vice-President (Research) office and the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) office, and the VPI also holds the title of Associate Vice-President (Research)
 - A legal contracts lawyer is being recruited to the Research Services Office, to improve turnaround times in this area
- Discussion included that:
 - Care should be taken to be inclusive of persons in the Arts disciplines in reporting. It was noted that using the Scopus system for citation metrics excludes researchers in some disciplines.
 - The move away from the use of bibliometrics to analysis of research impact is a positive change
 - Strong administrative offices and procedures are needed to support the research enterprise, and recent improvements to systems, such as for ethics approval, are appreciated
 - Partnerships include profit and non-profit entities, and the growth of partnerships is part of initiatives such as Growth Through Focus and the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification – Canadian Pilot Project

5. 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-Chair remarked that this is an opportunity to discuss the functioning and performance of the Committee, including what has gone well and what can be improved
- Discussion included that:
 - The University no longer submits an annual Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) to the provincial government, and so the responsibility to recommend the research chapter of the CIP should be removed from the Committee's Terms of Reference
 - There is not as much overlap now in membership between the Committee and the Associate Deans Research Council (ADRC), and the two bodies bring different perspectives to any overlapping items of business, and so the similarity of the Committee and ADRC is no longer the concern it was
 - It is desired to revise the Committee's Terms of Reference so that the Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies) may appoint a delegate to the committee

6. RSC 2021-2022

The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair remarked that this is an opportunity for the Committee to look forward to the 2021-2022 meeting year
- Discussion included that:
 - A presentation on the Vice-President (Research)'s portfolio would be valuable to new Committee members at the start of the meeting year
 - The Committee would like periodic updates on the Eyes High Strategy and Growth Through Focus Framework

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

The May 20, 2021 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary