



General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 56
September 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate
Dora Tam, Academic Co-Chair
Lyndsay Campbell
David Eaton
Carolyn Emery
Tom Keenan
Renzo Pereyra – left during Item 3
Mary-Jo Romaniuk – arrived during Item 2
Shelly Russell-Mayhew
Cathryn Ryan
Shane Sinclair
Martin Wagner

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi
Thomas Oldenburg
Cristina Rai

Secretary and Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff

Tasha Hodzic

Regrets

Raafat El-Hacha
Sabine Gilch
Michael Hill
Claire Kamaliddin
Alex Paquette
Piers Steel
Robin Yates

Guests

Neil Campbell, Senior Legal Counsel – present for Item 3
William Ghali, Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 3

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 September 23, 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:

- Dora Tam was thanked on this occasion of her first meeting as the Committee's Academic Co-Chair, and new members were welcomed and introduced
- This is an important committee for the research portfolio
- Upcoming deadlines include for the Eyes High Postdoctoral Scholars Match-Funding program on November 5 and the VPR Catalyst Grants program on November 15
- Covid-19 continues to impact the University. The Thrive Health system has launched and response is required. All faculty, staff, students and visitors who are unwilling/unable to be vaccinated currently must undergo rapid testing before coming to campus or attending in-person activities, and human research may be impacted by this. It is the responsibility of researchers to confirm compliance by participants.
- Several major grant competitions are in progress, including for the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Innovation Fund, MSI Foundation Research Grant, New Frontiers in Research Fund - Exploration and Transformation programs, multiple special COVID-19 research programs, SSHRC Partnership Development Grants, and Prairies Economic Development Canada funding
- The Canada Research Chair (CRC) allocation has been redone and the University has received more CRCs and has begun recruiting for some. The CFI John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) competition is in its last year.
- The research awards office has partnered with the teaching awards team to develop an equity, diversity and inclusion plan for awards competitions. Information about this will be distributed soon.
- A team is being assembled to consider the implementation of the principles in the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), including a holistic look at DORA's research impacts

The Academic Co-Chair expressed hope that members are doing well in the new academic year and recognized that the University is experiencing another difficult term.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- When out in the community, such as in schools, follow the facility's Covid-19 rules if those are tighter than those of the University. The University's rules are in compliance with municipal and provincial regulations, but some facilities may have stricter rules.
- It is not known when the University will return to 'normal' operations. The magnitude of the Covid-19 4th wave was a surprise, but the vaccine mandate and future opening of the vaccine to children should help with herd immunity.
- All persons attending the University's spaces, including persons such as guest speakers, should be carrying proof of vaccination and be prepared to show this. The University's webpage has information on the University's COVIDSafe Campus program.

3. Research Security Guidelines

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Bill Ghali and Neil Campbell presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that:
 - There has been attention recently at both the provincial and national levels on research security
 - In May 2021 the Minister of Advanced Education asked universities to pause the establishment or renewal of partnerships with public and private sector entities in China while each university generated a report on current partnerships with entities in China
 - This summer the federal government released National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships
 - The University embraces diverse global partnerships and scholarly exchanges, and approaches all international partnerships with a high standard of risk assessment and a robust approval process
 - The Research Services Office provides support to researchers, and oversees that all agreements have gone through appropriate due diligence and comply with Canadian laws
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Researchers are free to engage with international colleagues in the writing of papers
 - Open science initiatives will be announced soon. It is necessary to balance the granting agencies' desire for public data and intellectual property protections.
- Discussion included:
 - China has been singled out as an example of a threat, but the University has engaged in successful partnerships and exchanges with entities in China for many years
 - Some researchers may not have the resources to conduct the new risk assessment practices, and there is concern that this may deter some innovative research unless these researchers are supported by the University
 - A system to identify high and low risk projects is being developed
- The Vice-President (Research) invited members to reach out directly if they wish to talk more about subject, as it is a complex matter

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Adjournment**Moved/Seconded**

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the September 23, 2021 meeting.

Carried

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