



General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 57
October 21, 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
Sabine Gilch
Claire Kamaliddin
Tom Keenan
Alex Paquette
Renzo Pereyra
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Shelly Russell-Mayhew
Cathryn Ryan
Shane Sinclair
Piers Steel
Martin Wagner

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi
Thomas Oldenburg
Cristina Rai

Secretary and Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Raafat El-Hacha
Michael Hill
Robin Yates

Guests

Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research) – arrived during Item 4
Janaka Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost (International) – present for Item 4
Buffy St-Amand, Director - Strategic Global Initiatives, International office – present for Item 4

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the October 21, 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:

- This semester is busy, including with deadlines for granting programs such as the New Frontiers in Research Fund - 2022 Transformation competition
- The data analysis for the last year has been completed and it has been determined that the research enterprise brought in \$504 million in funding, which is substantial growth
- The University of Calgary Research and Teaching Awards Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Pilot Plan has launched, and an announcement about this was sent today. This is an important step for the University in being inclusive in these competitions and having diversity in nominations. The plan was developed collaboratively by the offices of the Vice-President (Research), Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion). The plan was prepared by a drafting committee last June, and it is hoped that the plan will be approved next July after the pilot period. The plan is available on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion office [website](#) and persons in the University community are asked to provide feedback, and the consultation process will also include bringing the plan to the Research and Scholarship Committee this semester for feedback.

The Academic Co-Chair observed that this is a stressful time, including with funding deadlines, and expressed hope that members are doing well.

3. Approval of the September 23, 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 September 23, 2021 be approved.

Carried

4. International Research

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Janaka Ruwanpura presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter gave a presentation on International Research, including that:
 - The Vice-Provost (International) also holds the title of Associate Vice-President Research (International), which is a relatively new position within the office of the Vice-President (Research) (VPR) and exists to provide a bridge between the offices of the Provost and VPR. There are similar bridging Associate Vice-President Research positions for the Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) and the Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion).
 - The third goal within the Matching Strengths with Opportunities priority of the University's Research Plan is to 'enhance international partnerships for research and education'. Since

2013, joint publications with international collaborators and funding from international sponsoring agencies have both steadily increased.

- The integrated Research and International units are producing an international research agreement database, an international research opportunities database/calendar, a map of international research publications and funding, and international research key performance indicators, and have established the International Research Partnerships and Innovation Unit
- The International Research Partnerships and Innovation Unit is responsible for facilitating the enhancement of research collaborations, building new opportunities, increasing funding, lobbying for additional funding and other opportunities, working with Faculties to promote strategic opportunities and support and leverage the expertise of faculty members, identifying potential industrial companies under each area of focus, and working with provincial and diplomatic offices to build strategic opportunities
- The mission statement of the International Research Partnerships and Innovation Unit is: *“Through our existing research themes and our focus on matching our research strengths with opportunities, we will leverage our expertise and entrepreneurial mindset to increase international collaborations, international research funding, strengthen our reputation and expand opportunities for knowledge transfer for global impact.”*
- In 2021-2022, next steps include recruiting a Manager and an International Research Facilitator for the new International Research Partnerships and Innovation Unit, finalizing the mapping of international funding opportunities and the expertise directory, setting up the international funding calendar and identifying some funding opportunities for strategic research projects, and exploring case examples of international research centres, institutes and labs set up by other universities that are funded and supported by industry partners
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Seeking international funding and partnerships and engaging in international development projects are connected. It was noted that competitors for international development funding include UNICEF and Non-Governmental Organizations, and that international development work is not the usually one of the core activities of a university.
 - There is awareness that some researchers struggle with late-night work with international colleagues followed by early morning teaching responsibilities, and administrators do what they can to alleviate this
- Discussion included that:
 - The New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) International stream is intended to provide opportunities for Canadian researchers to participate in research with international partners, and this could be looked into
 - Once a funded research project is underway, there can be issues such as with legalities and supply chain. The presenters agreed that infrastructure and supports must be in place for the entire life cycle of a project.
 - High-impact research is increasingly being done by teams, often with team members in different locations, and some teams need assistance to attract student researchers and other partners
 - Additional funding is needed to assist graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in attending conferences

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Adjournment

The October 21, 2021 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary