University of Calgary

General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 60
February 17, 2022, 2:00 p.m.   By Zoom platform

Voting Members
Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate
Dora Tam, Academic Co-Chair
Lyndsay Campbell – arrived and left during Item 4
Ariel Ducey – left during Item 7
David Eaton – left during Item 7
Carolyn Emery
Michael Hill – arrived during Item 4, left during Item 7
Claire Kamaliddin – left during Item 7
Alex Paquette – arrived during Item 2, left during Item 7
Renzo Pereyra – arrived during Item 4
Campbell Rolian
Mary-Jo Romaniuk – arrived during Item 2
Shelly Russell-Mayhew – left during Item 7
Cathryn Ryan – left during Item 7
Shane Sinclair
Piers Steel
Martin Wagner

Non-Voting Members
Hamid Habibi – arrived during Item 4
Thomas Oldenburg
Cristina Rai

Secretary and Scribe
Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff
Tasha Hodzic

Regrets
Raafat El-Hacha
Tom Keenan

Guests
Jennifer Abel, Research Data Management Specialist, Research Services Office – present for Item 4
William Ghali, Vice-President (Research) – present for Items 4-9
Tiago Lier, Director - Grants, Awards and Ethics, Research Services Office – present for Item 4
Hector MacIntyre, Manager - Postdoctoral Office and Int. Grants – present for Item 7
Penny Pexman, Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Items 5-6

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 February 17, 2022 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 University is a busy place, with lots of research-related activities happening

- The President has announced that Re$earch Infosource Inc. has ranked the University in fifth place among Canada's top research universities. This is a tremendous achievement, especially because there was skepticism when this goal was set within the *Eyes High* Strategy in 2011.

- The federal government has launched the 2022 Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) program. The University may submit one proposal, and this will be relating to the Child Health and Wellness research area.

- The University is inviting applications for up to six Canada Excellence Research Chair (CREC) positions across multiple disciplines (there is a two-stage process in which applicants apply for an open job posting at the University and if successful then apply to the CREC program). The application deadlines are in the summer and fall.

The Academic Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- There are many funding opportunities available, and the Committee will be hearing about some of those today

- The Committee will continue to meet via Zoom for the remainder of this meeting year

- Members were wished a pleasant Reading Break

In response to a question, it was explained that the CFREF structure is different this year and so past success rates are no longer relevant. The CERC success rate is expected to be approximately 15%.

3.   Approval of the December 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

> **Moved/Seconded**
>
> That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on December 16, 2021 be approved.
>
> **Carried**

Cathryn Ryan, Ariel Ducey, Shelly Russell-Mayhew, and Mary-Jo Romaniuk abstained.

4.   Development and Implementation of a Research Data Management Strategy at UCalgary

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Tiago Lier and Jennifer Abel presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the development of a Research Data Management (RDM) Strategy for the University, including:

  - The 2021 Tri-Agency RDM Policy requires that the University have a published RDM

Strategy by March 1, 2023

- o RDM is the processes applied through the lifecycle of a research project (before, during, and after the active phases of a research project) to guide the collection, documentation, storage, sharing and preservation of research data. RDM moves the research community towards open/transparent science, recognizes research data as an asset, reduces the costs of research which increases the responsible use of public funds, supports reproducibility, and increases research impact.

- o The principles of RDM are that data should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable, and that Indigenous communities have the right to govern the data created by and about them and researchers should follow established guidelines when doing research with Indigenous communities

- o The pillars of the RDM Policy are that all post-secondary institutions and research hospitals will have a published RDM Strategy, that all Tri-Agency grant proposals will reflect methodologies that meet bast practices in RDM, and that Tri-Agency grant recipients will deposit into a repository all digital data that directly supports journal-published research conclusions by the time of publication

- o The development of the University's RDM Strategy will include: assembling the strategy development team (a steering committee and a working committee), assessing the current state of RDM at the University, envisioning the future state of RDM at the University, articulating the University's path forward, and assembling and launching the RDM Strategy. It is anticipated that the RDM Strategy will be ready for approval by the General Faculties Council by January 2023.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - o The RDM Policy does not specify which repositories are to be used
  - o The requirement for researchers to place their digital data in a repository is not a requirement for open data or data sharing
  - o The RDM Policy applies to all disciplines, including the Humanities, although the nature of what data needs to be deposited may differ
  - o Some data is transitory and will not need to be deposited. There will be data curators to help determine that need to be deposited.
  - o Working 'with' an Indigenous community may include partnering to co-conduct research, having Indigenous persons participate in a project in some way, or conducting research on their land
  - o Development of the RDM Strategy will lead to review of the University's policies and procedures and infrastructure relating to data management. It was noted that any changes to the Intellectual Property Policy are subject to mutual agreement between the Faculty Association and the Board of Governors.

- Discussion included:
  - o Resources may be needed to increase repository capacity
  - o Reputable repositories will support Digital Object Identifier (DOI) minting
  - o There is concern about increasing the workload of principal investigators, student researchers, postdoctoral scholars, and support staff
  - o A culture of data management and data sharing will evolve over time

- o A definition of 'sensitive data' is needed

- o There has been scrutiny on data management and secure computing for years, and the production of an RDM Strategy is not really going to change what a researcher is doing with their data

5. **The Azrieli Accelerator**

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

Highlights:

- The presenters provided information on the recently-announced Azrieli Accelerator, including:
  - o The Azrieli Foundation chose the University to receive the $25 million donation to develop the Azrieli Accelerator because of the University's disciplinary excellence in neurodevelopmental research, collaborative and transdisciplinary research culture, and commitment to research impact
  - o The Azrieli Accelerator will enable research in neurodevelopment, neurodevelopmental disorders, neurodevelopmental conditions, neurodevelopmental disabilities, and neurodiversity
  - o The funding will allow for the growth of collaborations, the launch of bold and impactful projects, catalyst grants, the training of students and postdoctoral scholars, and start-up funding for new recruits to the University. The funding will be leveraged to achieve success in external grant funding competitions and partnerships with other philanthropic funders.
  - o The Azrieli Accelerator researchers have expertise in three focus areas: Brain Circuitry, Microbiome Influences, and Interventions and Care Transformations
  - o The Azrieli Accelerator's leadership includes a Scientific Director, Vice-President Research (VPR) Liaison, Program Directors in each of the research areas, and an executive committee and advisory committees
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - o The initial appointments of the Program Directors will be internal appointments, as a combination of disciplinary expertise and institutional knowledge is desired
  - o A communications strategy is being developed, and it is expected to hold townhalls
  - o The catalyst grants are different competition from the VPR's Catalyst Grants
  - o Anyone interested in becoming involved is invited to connect with the Scientific Director
  - o The three focus areas are the current key areas of research, but this is not exhaustive

6. **VPR Funding Programs Structure: Eyes High Postdoctoral Match Funding Program**

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

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the history of and data relating to the Eyes High Postdoctoral Match

Funding Program.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - o There are pressures to providing competitive postdoctoral scholar salaries and benefits, and this program aims to help with this
  - o There is an expectation that postdoctoral scholars funded under this program will be successful in external funding applications, and the VPR office can share information on how to prepare a good application and curriculum vitae
- Discussion included:
  - o The match funding program has made it possible for some supervisors to recruit a postdoctoral scholar rather than hiring a graduate student
  - o People who have privilege and access to resources tend to be more successful in pursuing awards, and it is important to consider equity, diversity and inclusion and boost people who may not be on a traditional career trajectory

7. VPR Funding Programs Structure: VPR Catalyst Grants Program

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. William Ghali and Hector MacIntyre presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the history of and data relating to the VPR Catalyst Grants Program, noting specifically that the program is a strategic investment to make downstream successful applications for external funding possible. The presenters spoke about the objectives, selection criteria, evaluation process, and budgeting of the program.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - o The Vice-Provost International has some funding for international collaboration awards
  - o Postdoctoral scholars can apply for a Catalyst Grant

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

| **Moved/Seconded** |
| That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the February 17, 2022 meeting. |
| **Carried** |

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

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary