General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 62
April 21, 2022, 2:00 p.m.   By Zoom platform

Voting Members
Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate
Dora Tam, Academic Co-Chair
Lyndsay Campbell
Carolyn Emery
Michael Hill – arrived during Item 5, left during Item 6
Claire Kamaliddin – left during Item 5
Tom Keenan
Alex Paquette – arrived during Item 2, left during Item 6
Renzo Pereyra
Campbell Rolian
Mary-Jo Romaniuk – arrived during Item 2, left during Item 6
Cathryn Ryan
Shelly Russell-Mayhew
Piers Steel
Martin Wagner

Regrets
Ariel Ducey
David Eaton
Raafat El-Hacha
Shane Sinclair

Guests
William Ghali, Vice-President (Research) – arrived during Item 5
Shaziah Jinnah, incoming Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) – arrived during Item 6
Penny Pexman, Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 5
Susan Skone, Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 6
Abdel Yousif, Director, Research Computing, Information Technologies – present for Item 6

Non-Voting Members
Hamid Habibi
Thomas Oldenburg – left during Item 5
Cristina Rai

Secretary and Scribe
Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff
Tasha Hodzic

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 April 21, 2022 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved. **Carried**

2. **Remarks of the Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair**

The Academic Co-Chair acknowledged Renzo Pereyra, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic), and Alex Paquette, Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic), on this occasion of their last Research and Scholarship Committee meeting. Shaziah Jinnah, incoming Students' Union Vice-President (Academic), was welcomed.

The Co-Chair included the following in his remarks:

- It has been announced that the University has had eight projects funded through the federal New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF), which is the most of any Canadian institutions this round. The NFRF funds major multidisciplinary research projects that do not fit into individual funding agency portfolios, and awards $200,000/year.

- The University has sixteen proposals that will be submitted by the June 15, 2022 Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Innovation Fund deadline

- Two other federal competitions are underway: 1) The Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) program now accepts combined applications for both the research area and the proposed candidate. The University may submit up to six applications, and is currently looking into competitive candidates and will finalise the list in early June. Applications are due in October; 2) The University has submitted its Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) program, in the area of Child Health and Wellness. Each university can submit one LOI and some of these will progress to full proposal.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- It is not a requirement of the CERC program that the candidate be from external to Canada, but to date no internal to Canada nominations have been accepted. If nominating an internal candidate, it must be demonstrated that there is a benefit to Canada in moving the person.

- The CERC program targets persons who are already international leaders and appointable at the Full Professor or equivalent level, and so international postdoctoral scholars would generally not meet the Chair application standards. CERC funding funds a research program, however, and so there should be opportunities for postdoctoral scholars to connect with programs.

3. **Approval of the March 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded
That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on March 17, 2022 be approved. **Carried**

4. **Appointment of an RSC Representative to the Information Asset Management Committee**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. The Co-Chair and Meeting Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Committee was reminded of the role of the University's Information Asset Management Committee (IAMC) and then discussed the options for choosing its representative
- It was decided that Tom Keenan, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, will represent the Committee on the IAMC for another term, until June 30, 2025
- It was determined that it is desired that the representative report to the Committee once or twice per year on the work of the IAMC

Moved/Seconded
That the Research and Scholarship Committee appoint Tom Keenan to the Information Asset Management Committee, for a term ending June 30, 2025.
Carried

5. **Research Impact Assessment (DORA) Update**

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

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an update on research impact assessment (RIA) at the University, including actioning the institution's commitment to the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). The Committee heard that:
  - Research Impact goals are that: 1) Impact creates reputational advantage, 2) Impact and its assessment is part of the University's core business, and 3) Impact informs allocation, promotion/tenure, funding and donor engagement decisions
  - The research impact mindset involves thinking beyond what an organization has, does and produces to what difference it makes to beneficiaries including the community
  - The University was the first university in Canada to sign DORA, and is believed to be the only one with dedicated implementation personnel
  - DORA recommends that institutions move beyond journal-based metrics to assess an individual's contributions, and that institutions consider the value and impact of all research outputs. Institutions should consider a broad range of research impact measures, including journal articles, monographs, books, patents, licenses, software, datasets, presentations, and influence on policy and practice.
  - Impact indictors include: advancing knowledge, informing decision making, health impacts, capacity building, and broad economic and social impacts
  - The University's DORA Action Plan has five stages:
    - Analysis – The University has been (December 2021 to April 2022) considering the University's context, listening to stakeholder needs, and selecting an implementation framework

- Gap Analysis – The next stage (March to December 2022) will involve developing a DORA best-practices rubric, evaluating the University's RIA processes, identifying areas of strength and need for development, and tracking progress

- Future State – In the near future (August 2022 to March 2023) the University will develop resources and frameworks, gather feedback from internal and external stakeholders and iterate this, and build capacity and socialize DORA/RIA

- Launch – The University will then (March 2023) launch support of the integration of DORA best practices into hiring, tenure and promotion, and funding policies, and will share its resources with campus and external stakeholders

- Evaluation – After launch the University will assess the effectiveness, uptake and perceptions of DORA best practices and tools and will assess the impacts at the institutional level

  - Central considerations include that: Indigenous engagement and equity, diversity and inclusion be woven throughout all efforts; the experience/expertise of internal and external stakeholders be incorporated; units connect and collaborate; definitions of excellence be aligned; and capacity for change be supported with adequate resources, training and transparency

- Discussion included:

  - The membership of the RIA Working Group and how these members were selected. It was requested that the membership of the RIA Working Group be expanded to include additional faculty members and a representative of the Faculty Association.

  - The University's Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook will need to be updated to reflect in more detail the DORA principles

- In response to questions, it was reported that:

  - The RIA Working Group is not an implementation committee, but makes recommendations to an implementation committee and the Provost

  - The RIA Working Group membership list and a version of the presentation for sharing with colleagues can be provided to the Committee

6. Research Computing Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Abdel Yousif and Susan Skone presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on Research Computing Services (RCS) at the University, including:

  - The goal of RCS is to ensure no researcher or research team is limited by computational resources. The RCS team includes data scientists, software developers, and systems administrators, and RCS manages secure computing and high performance computing infrastructure.

  - An overview of high performance computing usage statistics was presented

  - The Digital Research Alliance of Canada has replaced Compute Canada, and the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta will alternate the leadership role in the Alliance on behalf of institutions in the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba provinces

- o The federal CANARIE (Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research, Industry and Education) initiative has granted RCS $600,000 to form a local research software support team, which will build modular and re-usable research software that can be used to develop project-specific software

- o The federal Western Diversification funding program (PrairiesCAN) has granted RCS $300,000 to pilot a high performance computing cluster for commercial use, including the University research community's own spin offs

- o RCS is involved with Active Research Data Management, which is a national initiative to extend the life of some research data through re-use, and the RCS Strategy is to support a platform to discover, organise, store, protect, and provide research data access

- o CloudStack is a new platform to create Linux Virtual Machines and this will launch on May 1, 2022. This will reduce provisioning time and will be the University's primary virtual machine fulfilment platform for research.

- o April is Cybersecurity Month, and RCS and IT are offering resources and trainings relating to research cybersecurity and a Cyber Awareness and Research Security Webinar

- In response to questions, it was reported that:

  - o The members are welcome to share the RCS presentation with their colleagues

  - o It is expected that the University will have adequate data centre capacity for the next four years, but then more capacity will be needed

- Discussion included:

  - o The University was recently targeted in a cybersecurity event involving a ransomware request due to some data being stored on an insecure server. There are international bad actors looking to profit from vulnerabilities, and it is important to pay attention to cybersecurity.

  - o There are several federal programs providing opportunities to meet growing research computing needs, and RCS is on top of identifying and accessing these

7. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

8. **Adjournment**

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the April 21, 2022 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary