



General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

October 20, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate
Dora Tam, Academic Co-Chair
Ariel Ducey
David Eaton
Carolyn Emery
Michael Hill – arrived during Item 2
Shazia Jinnah Morsette
Alberto de Salvatierra
James Steele
Rudiger Tscherning

Non-Voting Members

Thomas Oldenburg
Lindsay Tedds

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Raafat El-Hacha
Claire Kamaliddin
Sheri Madigan
Cristina Rai
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Shelly Russell-Mayhew
Shane Sinclair
Piers Steel

Guests

Susa Benseler, Director, Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute; Professor, Cumming School of Medicine; and Child Health & Wellness Researcher – present for item 4
Michael Blough, Manager, Strategic Opportunities, Office of the VPR – present for Item 5
William Ghali, Vice-President (Research)

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the October 20, 2022 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

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

The Academic Co-Chair and Co-Chair included the following in their remarks:

- Alberto de Salvatierra, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, was welcomed on this occasion of his first Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) meeting
- A link to the Research Data Management (RDM) Strategy consultation webpage was provided, and members of the RSC were encouraged to provide feedback to the RDM Strategy Steering Committee and its working committees before the deadline of November 20, 2022

3. Approval of the September 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on September 22, 2022 be approved.

Carried

4. Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) Update

Susa Benseler presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported on the University's submission to the CFREF program, for a project entitled 'One Child, Any Child'. The presenter included that this project is a collaboration between the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge, Athabasca University, Alberta Health Services, Indigenous scholars, and community partners, it falls within the University's 'Child Health and Wellness' Research Strategy, and it was developed through a strengths analysis/needs assessment and townhalls.
- The presenter described that the project has thematic areas ('Better Beginnings/Maternal and Child Health', 'Precision Child Health and Wellness', and 'From Vulnerable to Thriving'), there is a commitment to focus on Indigenous and equity-deserving groups, and the project will fuel the building of local, national, and global partnerships
- The presenter reported that a Letter of Intent (LOI) was submitted in February 2022, the LOI was approved in June 2022, the full proposal was submitted in August 2022, and it will be announced in December 2022 if the proposal will move on to the final adjudication round
- There were no comments or questions

5. Strategic Opportunities Unit

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Michael Blough presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter gave a presentation on the recently created Strategic Opportunities Unit within the office of the Vice-President (Research). The presenter reported that the purpose of the unit is to engage with University researchers to increase the quantity of non-Tri-Council funding applications, identify opportunities for funding and communicate about these, build relationships with funding agencies and industry, and work with other units in providing support to researchers (including Research Services, Legal Services, Ethics, Analytics, and Innovate Calgary).
- The presenter described that challenges include short deadlines, complex opportunities, that sometimes there are no University researchers who are a good fit with an identified funding opportunity, that sometimes University researchers are not aware of opportunities, and that sometimes University researchers are aware of opportunities but choose not to pursue. The presenter reported that the Strategic Opportunities Unit's success will be measured by increased awareness of opportunities, an increased number of LOI and full applications submitted, and an increased number of successful applications.
- Discussion included:
 - Some opportunities require a high Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and it can be difficult to prepare a competitive application on short notice
 - University researchers could partner with others in order to be eligible to apply to certain opportunities. The presenter indicated that his unit will be able to help researchers connect and build networks.

6. Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) Update

William Ghali presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an update on the CERC program and the 2022 competition. The presenter reported that the University was allotted a virtual funding envelope of \$3 million per year and, following an internal selection process, submitted four applications on October 13, 2022: 'Pluralistic Societies: Transdisciplinarity, Cognitive Justice and Education' (\$500,000/year budget), 'Pluralistic Societies: Epistemic Pluralism and Ecologies of Knowledges' (\$500,000/year budget), 'Indigenous Ways of Climate and Water Sustainability for Planetary Health and Well-being' (\$1 million/year budget) and 'Photonic Quantum Science and Technologies' (\$1 million/year budget). The presenter noted that the CERC success rate is anticipated to be 35-40%, and that the results of the competition will be known no later than May 2023.
- There were no comments or questions

7. Major Innovation Fund (MIF) Update

Rob Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter gave a presentation on Alberta's MIF, which is an initiative of the Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Innovation to support targeted research and technology development and drive economic diversification, economic growth, talent development, research commercialization, and

the attraction of investment to the province. The presenter described the structure of the MIF program, including that institutions must assemble multi-institution teams, and that the University will lead and submit five proposals by the deadline of November 15, 2022: 'Medical Device Innovations', 'eHealth and mHealth Technologies', 'Water Quality and Conservation Technologies', 'Space and Defence Technologies', and 'Mobilizing Cybersecurity'. The University of Alberta will lead and submit five other proposals: 'Disease Management and Therapeutic Development', 'Critical Minerals Value Chains', 'Climate Adaptation/Mitigation Technologies', 'Open Data Through Digital Technologies', and 'Sustainable and Smart Agriculture and Food Systems'.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The statement that projects should be self-sustaining means that it is expected that a team will seek additional funding in the future, to continue or enter a new phase (e.g., become a research centre)
 - Persons interested in becoming involved in the University of Alberta-led projects are welcome to reach out to the Lead Champions

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

The October 20, 2022 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary