

General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

April 20, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate
Dora Tam, Academic Co-Chair
Stephanie Bishop – left after Item 6
Raylene Reimer DeBruyn
Ariel Ducey – left after Item 7
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette
Sheri Madigan
Shelly Russell-Mayhew
Alberto de Salvatierra
Shane Sinclair
James Steele – left after Item 6
Rudiger Tscherning

Non-Voting Members

Thomas Oldenburg – left during item 7
Cristina Rai
Lindsay Tedds

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Faizal Abdul Careem
David Eaton
Raafat El-Hacha
Michael Hill
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Piers Steel

Guests

Sandra Amin, incoming Students' Union Vice-President (Academic)
Deborah Book, Legal Counsel – present for Item 4
Steven Bryant, Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and Chief Scientist, Creative Destruction Lab -
Rockies – present for Item 6
Chelsea Crowshoe, Manager, Indigenous Research Support Team – present for Item 8
Michael Hart, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement) – present
for Item 8
Hector MacIntyre, Manager - Postdoctoral Office & Internal Grants – present for Item 5
Susan Skone, Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 7
Anne Wigham, Protected Disclosure and Research Integrity Advisor – present for Item 4
Abdel Yousif, Director, Research Computing Services – present for Item 7

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 20, 2023 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:

- Members of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) leadership team visited the University last week, and a topic of discussion was the NSERC Discovery Grants program. The University's Discovery Grants success rate was down in the last competition, but the size of the grants received was up, and it was learned that this change was strategically done by NSERC, which periodically reviews this program.
- The University's Research Security team is now in place. Martha Wallace, Director of Research Security, and her six-member team will work to maintain a safe and secure research environment at the University, including due diligence relating to funding, compliance, research security risk assessment, and mitigating barriers to research.

The Academic Co-Chair recognized James Steele, outgoing Graduate Students' Association Vice-President (Academic), and Shaziah Jinnah Morsette, outgoing Students' Union (SU) Vice-President (Academic), on this occasion of their last Research and Scholarship Committee meeting. Sandra Amin, incoming SU Vice-President (Academic), was welcomed.

In response to a question, it was reported that there is awareness that the value of student stipends remains the same as in 1980s, and that this is a key concern being expressed to the federal government. It was reported that there was no new funding in the recent federal budget to address this or research funding in general, and so advocating will continue as the issue of student poverty is becoming increasingly serious.

3. Approval of the March 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on March 16, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. Revisions to the Research Integrity Policy and the Procedure for Investigating a Breach of Research Integrity

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Deborah Book and Anne Wigham presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the Research Integrity Policy and the Procedure for Investigating a Breach of Research Integrity
- Discussion included that the policy refers to “Research Involving Indigenous Peoples” in a standalone section (4.5) and “Research Involving Humans” in subsequent sections (4.6 to 4.11), and it was suggested that consideration be given to combining these
- In response to a question, it was reported that the person who has lodged an allegation is advised of the outcome, but they are not given a copy of the detailed report of the Investigation Committee

5. VPR Catalyst Grants Program

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

Highlights:

- The presenter gave a presentation on the VPR Catalyst Grants program, including its purpose, criteria, and data relating to recent awards made
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The Tri-Agency - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) is a funding source for the VPR Catalyst Grants program. A VPR Catalyst Grant can be used for SSHRC funding matching if it is allocated from other VPR operating funds.
 - Researchers in the SSHRC disciplines can also apply to the University’s Enhancement Grants funding program

6. Transdisciplinary Connector Grants Program

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Steven Bryant presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter gave a presentation on the Transdisciplinary Connector Grants program, including that its funding originated from the President’s Strategic Initiatives Fund, that the program builds upon transdisciplinary capacity that already existed at the University, and that gatherings have been held to bring together persons to cultivate relationships and facilitate the development of ideas, challenges, and opportunities. The presenter reported that the program has two streams (Initiating Stream and Consolidating Stream), there will be four intakes per year, a project does not need a Principal Investigator, and the funding does not necessarily need to be a path to additional funding.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Persons are reaching out to the Transdisciplinary Scholarship support team to enquire if their work meets the definition of ‘transdisciplinary’. Effort is being made to refine the working definition of ‘transdisciplinary’ to make it more practical, and this will be discussed at the next gathering on June 20, 2023.
 - There will be lessons learned during the first iterations of the Transdisciplinary Connector

Grants program, with things that work well built upon and adjustments to improve made as needed, and feedback will be welcomed

- Consideration is being given to how to include postdoctoral scholars, and potentially graduate students, as eligible program co-applicants
- Discussion included observation that students (undergraduate and graduate) and postdoctoral scholars can help draw faculty into transdisciplinary projects

7. Research Computing Update

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

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation on matters relating to research computing, including:
 - The services offered by the Research Computing Services team, which includes data scientists, software developers, and system administrators
 - The University's digital research infrastructure, and data relating to High Performance Computing
 - An update on the implementation of the Research Data Management Strategy, which was approved and published in March 2023
 - The CANARIE research software development support team project
 - Federal/national research computing initiatives
- In response to questions, it was confirmed that Research Computing Services offers trainings and workshops, some of which are discipline specific, and effort will be made to increase awareness of these.

8. Indigenous Research Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Michael Hart and Chelsea Crowshoe presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation on matters relating to Indigenous research at the University, including:
 - The Indigenous Research Support Team (IRST) has been established. The IRST's role includes services such as supporting Indigenous scholars who are in high demand for research and administrative work, facilitating contacts with the Indigenous community, assisting with preparedness for ethical connections with Indigenous communities, and supporting researchers in applying for grants. The IRST is unique in its focus, but connections are being grown with similar initiatives across the country.
 - The Office of Indigenous Engagement has a Steering Committee that is currently being renewed after being on pause during the pandemic
 - Work has been done to ensure that the University's Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has awareness of the First Nations Principles of OCAP (ownership, control, access

and possession)

- The Tri-Council is developing processes for receiving applications in Cree and other Indigenous languages
- The Office of Indigenous Engagement, including the IRST and other teams, can provide information on self-development and is working on developing training opportunities
- Discussion included that the presence of the IRST will encourage researchers and students to become engaged with the Indigenous community, and this will spark research projects
- It was reported that members can email the IRST at irst@ucalgary.ca and they can sign up for a bimonthly newsletter from the IRST webpage

9. Approved GFC and GFC Standing Committees Meeting Schedules for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

The approved GFC and GFC standing committees meeting schedules for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 were provided for information.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary