



General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

September 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

AD 167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate*
Sheri Madigan, Academic Co-Chair* – arrived during Item 2
Sandra Amin
David Anderson
Stephanie Bishop
Kris Innanen
Aamir Jamal
Shelly Russell-Mayhew
Alberto de Salvatierra
Rudiger Tscherning* – left during Item 3
Lorraine Venturato

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi*
Cristina Rai*

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Faizal Abdul Careem
Raylene Reimer DeBruyn
Raafat El-Hacha
Michael Hill
Kirsten Neprily
Thomas Oldenburg
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Piers Steel

Guests

Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research) – arrived during Item 2

*via Zoom

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Co-Chair described the Agenda preparation process and remarked that normally the Agenda would include an action item for the approval of the previous meeting's Minutes, however, those were approved through electronic vote at the end of the previous meeting year.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the September 21, 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:

- Sheri Madigan, Faculty of Arts representative on the Research and Scholarship Committee (the Committee) was announced as the Committee's newly appointed Academic Co-Chair and was welcomed to the role
- New representatives on the Committee were welcomed on this occasion of their first meeting: Lorraine Venturato, Faculty of Nursing, Kris Innanen, Faculty of Science, Aamir Jamal, Faculty of Social Work, David Anderson, Faculty of Graduate Studies, and Hamid Habibi, Faculty Association
- Twelve members of the University community have been named to the Royal Society of Canada: seven Fellows (Frank Cheng, Schulich School of Engineering, Carolyn Emery, Faculty of Kinesiology and Cumming School of Medicine, David Hodgins, Faculty of Arts and Cumming School of Medicine, Nicole Letourneau, Faculty of Nursing and Cumming School of Medicine, Jennifer Love, Faculty of Science, Venkataraman Thangadurai, Faculty of Science, and Marcello Tonelli, Cumming School of Medicine) and five members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists (Marie-Claire Arrieta, Cumming School of Medicine, Gina Dimitropoulos, Faculty of Social Work, Kirsten Fiest, Cumming School of Medicine, Joe Harrison, Faculty of Science, and Aaron Phillips, Cumming School of Medicine). This is the highest number of inductees in one year that the University has ever achieved.

The Academic Co-Chair remarked that she is delighted to take on the Academic Co-Chair role and is looking forward to this meeting year.

3. Committee-Specific Orientation

The Co-Chair remarked that the Committee has broad membership and that the members bring a variety of perspectives to the Committee's meetings. The Co-Chair noted that the members of the Associate Deans Research Council (ADRC) are responsible for disseminating to their Faculties information relating to research, but that members are free to share with colleagues any information they hear at the Committee's meetings.

The University Secretary and Governance Coordinator gave a presentation orienting the members to the work of the Committee, including:

- An overview of University's bicameral governance structure, including the legislation informing this, that the University operates with collegial governance, the authority framework, that decisions are made in consideration of the betterment of the institution as a whole, and illustration of the General Faculties Council (GFC) committee structure
- Review of the membership and the role and responsibilities of the Committee, as set out in its Terms of Reference
- The expectations of members
- The ability of the Committee to strike working groups as needed
- The supports provided to the Committee by the Secretariat

There were no questions.

4. Operational Plan – Research Plan

Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported that:
 - *Ahead of Tomorrow*, the University's strategic plan for 2023-2030, was approved by the General Faculties Council and Board of Governors in June 2023
 - Four *Ahead of Tomorrow* operational implementation plans are currently being created: the Academic Plan (headed by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)), the Research and Innovation Plan (headed by the Vice-President (Research)), the Community Plan (headed by the Vice-President (Advancement)), and the Operational Plan (headed by the Vice-President (Services))
 - Drafts of the implementation plans will be provided to the University community this fall, and then there will be approximately six weeks of feedback gathering. The Academic Plan and the Research and Innovation Plan will be discussed by the General Faculties Council and some of its standing committees and these and the Community Plan and the Operational Plan will be discussed by the Board of Governors and some of its standing committees.
 - The University's previous strategic plan, the *Eyes High* Strategy 2017-2022, had an Academic Plan and a Research Plan. These will be considered, as will the 2020-2022 Framework for Growth, as the new Academic Plan and Research and Innovation Plan are developed. The Research and Innovation Plan will also be informed by the Research Services and Vice-President (Research) Offices' work relating to supporting the University's research enterprise.
 - The timeline for approval of the plans is currently being determined
 - The implementation plans will run 2024-2027 and then be renewed for 2027-2030 with any necessary changes
 - There is connection between the four implementation plans, as some initiatives will crosscut these
 - The University will follow the IECB framework for strategic planning, which includes considering internal data, considering external data, consultation with stakeholders, and following best practices
 - Members of the University community are encouraged to participate in the feedback phase of the development of the implementation plans, including reading the draft implementation plan documents, re-reading the *Ahead of Tomorrow*, Framework for Growth, and *Eyes High* documents, completing online feedback forms, submitting thoughts to a suggestion box, attending workshops, and participating in discussions at Faculty Council meetings
 - The Strategic Planning Oversight Committee has been brought back to oversee the implementation plans process
 - The Committee will ultimately be asked to recommend the approval of the new Research and Innovation Plan

- Discussion included:
 - The inclusion of student researchers, especially undergraduate students, is applauded. The Vice-President (Research) reported that undergraduate research opportunities will be growing substantially as new research and scholarship initiatives are rolled out by the University and as the Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) awards program is expanded. It was noted that the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning also helps to foster undergraduate student research experiences through the College of Creativity, Discovery and Innovation (CDCI) and the Global Challenges program.
 - The interconnectedness of the four implementation plans is crucial
 - Metrics such as the number of research grants received are important, but it will also be valuable to assess diversity, partnerships, and collaborations
- In response to a question, it was indicated that the Committee will only formally receive the Research and Innovation Plan for discussion and later recommendation, but that the other three plans will be available on the University's website and members are encouraged to read and provide feedback on these.

5. Other Business

The Committee received an impromptu report from Bill Ghali and was informed that:

- The Associate Deans Research Council (ADRC) recently received a presentation from Susa Benseler and Francois Bernier about the University's Canada First Research Excellence Fund transdisciplinary research initiative One Child Every Child. The One Child Every Child initiative is an eight-year program with a mandate to positively impact child health globally, and has three themes (Better Beginnings, Precision Health and Wellness, and Vulnerable to Thriving) and several accelerators (including walking parallel paths with Indigenous Elders and scholars; equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility; technology solutions; and knowledge translation). The initiative is open to more researchers, including faculty, students, and postdoctoral scholars, and interested persons are encouraged to reach out.
- The University's three provincial Major Innovation Fund projects (Medical Devices, eHealth, and Space-Defence Technologies) are also transdisciplinary and interested persons are encouraged to reach out and engage with these
- The current Canada Research Chairs (CRC) intake is underway, and the University has ten CRC to allocate. The ten CRC are split with 7 Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), 2 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and 1 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), but there is some flexibility. Faculties are developing proposals for the ten positions, and members are encouraged to reach out to their Dean if they wish to contribute ideas.
- The name of a new Associate Vice-President (Research), replacing Penny Pexman who left the University, will be announced soon and the person will start in the role on October 1. The person has SSHRC expertise and experience working in the community.

Sandra Amin, the Students' Union (SU) representative on the Committee, reported that the deadline for students to apply to present in the SU's Undergraduate Research Symposium is September 29, 2023. The Symposium will take place November 22-23, 2023 and students are encouraged to participate in this event, which will include presentations, posters, and workshops.

6. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the September 21, 2023 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary