



General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

January 18, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

AD 167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate
Sheri Madigan, Academic Co-Chair
Sandra Amin*
David Anderson*
Stephanie Bishop*
Aamir Jamal*
Raylene Reimer DeBruyn
Mary-Jo Romaniuk*
Shelly Russell-Mayhew*
Alberto de Salvatierra*
Piers Steel*
Lorraine Venturato* – left during Item 6

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi*
Cristina Rai*

Secretary

Courtney McVie*

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Faizal Abdul Careem
Raafat El-Hacha
Michael Hill
Kris Innanen
Kirsten Neprily
Thomas Oldenburg
Rudiger Tscherning

Guests

Keeta Gladue, Manager, Indigenous Research Support Team* – present for Item 5
Pamela Roach, Indigenous Engagement Research Director – present for Item 5
Marcello Tonelli, Associate Vice-President Research* – present for Item 6

**Attended virtually*

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the January 18, 2024 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 federal government has announced formal direction and guidance on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC). These research security guidelines officially relate only to federal research grants (i.e. Tri-Council, Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)), but it is expected that other organizations will follow these guidelines too. These guidelines attempt to put Canadian research and innovation on a path that provides security for researchers' intellectual property (IP) and protection of the country's national security. This announcement is helpful as it specifies restrictions and identifies sensitive areas, so there should be no surprise denials of grant applications.
 - Members were referred to the Canadian government's website and a communication that was sent from the University's Research Security unit yesterday, and encouraged to read about this subject and how their research may be impacted
- The CFI is putting new focus on Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts research and setting up infrastructure for this. The University will have a workshop on Friday, February 2, 2024 about this, and members were encouraged to attend if considering applying for CFI funding.
- A discussion group is being formed by Katrina Milaney, Associate Vice-President (Research), to look into imposter participant issues in research, such as bots responding to surveys or ineligible individuals signing up to participate in studies. A research project's data is no longer sound if there was an imposter participant, and this is a significant research ethics concern. Members were encouraged to reach out if they have examples of this or are aware of colleagues who have had issues with this.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

3. Approval of the November 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on November 23, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Research and Innovation Plan

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent gave a presentation on the development of the Research and Innovation Plan, the feedback received during the consultation period, and the changes that were made in response to this feedback. The proponent reported that some minor revisions to the document will be

incorporated into the version that will be provided to the General Faculties Council (GFC) for approval, in response to feedback such as in letters recently received from the Faculty Association and Research Services Office.

- Discussion included:
 - The inclusion of undergraduate students in the Research and Innovation Plan is appreciated. It was requested that the College for Discovery, Creativity and Innovation (CDCI) be included in the list of research support units in section 2.2.
 - It was reported that the Students' Union will be submitting to the drafting team suggested wording around the research ecosystem facilitating undergraduate engagement, as undergraduate students face different barriers than other researchers
 - The Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) and other awards programs are valuable, but the funding provides pay less than minimum wage. Students are seeking other research experience opportunities, such as within courses.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The University's Global Engagement Plan (GEP) expires in 2025 and a process to renew this has not yet begun, and so, while the University remains committed to internationalization, the GEP is not specifically mentioned in the Research and Innovation Plan
 - The reference to creating pathways for career progression to faculty roles for postdoctoral scholars means broad career progression and not necessarily a continuing career at the University of Calgary. It was suggested that, to avoid setting unintended expectations, this point be moved from section 1.1 (*Expand capacity in faculty level hires*) to section 1.2 (*Attracting exceptional early-career researchers for formative post-doctoral training at UCalgary*).

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) recommend that the General Faculties Council (GFC) approve the Research and Innovation Plan, in the form provided to the RSC, with the reported and requested amendments, and authorize the proponent to make non-substantive changes to the Research and Innovation Plan prior to its presentation to the GFC.

Carried

5. Indigenous Research Strategy

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Pamela Roach, Indigenous Engagement Research Director, and Keeta Gladue, Manager, Indigenous Research Support Team, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on Indigenous research initiatives at the University, including:
 - The Indigenous Research Support Team (IRST) structure now consists of a Manager, an Indigenous Research Advisor, two Research Coordinators (Health and Non-Health) and an Ethics and Process Specialist. Indigenous research leadership at the University is provided by the Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (Indigenous Engagement), the

Indigenous Engagement Research Director, the Associate Vice-President (Research), and the Director of Institutional Programs.

- The IRST will assist researchers by:
 - Advising on Indigenous research practices, community engagement, and data management
 - Supporting grants and ethics applications, and identifying funding opportunities related to Indigenous research
 - Working with Indigenous communities and helping people understand engagement protocols
 - Supplying administrative support to Indigenous faculty for research projects, including through consultation, process guidance, and the raising of awareness
 - Establishing a network to support connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons and between researchers and Indigenous communities
 - Facilitating the creation of research agreements
 - Creating an Indigenous research community of practice
 - Providing communications and media outreach
- An Indigenous Research Strategy is in development and will be brought forward in due course with an aim for implementation in 2026. The development plan for this includes:
 - Engagement with the Indigenous Research Steering Circle and extensive internal and external stakeholder consultation
 - Identification of strategic priorities aligned with the University's *Ahead of Tomorrow* strategic plan, Research and Innovation Plan, and *ii' taa'poh'to'p* (Indigenous Strategy)
 - Development of an Advisory, Operationalization and Knowledge Mobilization Plan
- Discussion included:
 - It is desired to engage more Indigenous undergraduate students in research. Raising awareness, capacity building, and finding culturally appropriate ways to engage these students is needed, perhaps through summer studentships for Indigenous high school students.
 - Undergraduate student research supervision is different from graduate student research supervision, and there is not a lot of experience at the University with Indigenous research
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The IRST can work with Faculties as their pathways and supports for Indigenous students are developed
 - Supports for students and faculty are also available from the Writing Symbols Lodge and Office of Indigenous Engagement, such as through events, workshops, learning opportunities, scholars circles, and community connections
 - Both the IRST and the Writing Symbols Lodge have newsletters to promote awareness of Indigenous research and initiatives

6. DORA and Research Impact Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Marcello Tonelli, Associate Vice-President Research, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter provided an update on the implementation of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and research impact assessment at the University, including:
 - DORA's principles include that institutions, funding agencies, and others should:
 - Not use journal-based metrics as a measure of quality
 - Be explicit about the criteria used in hiring, tenure, and promotion decisions
 - Consider that the content of a paper is more important than its publication metrics
 - Consider the value and impact of all research outputs
 - Consider a broad range of impact measures
 - The University signed the DORA in 2021, and DORA ideals were embedded in the GFC Academic Staff Criteria and Processes Handbook later that year and in 2023. A research impact assessment working group was formed in 2022, and current practices, areas of strength, and areas needing development were studied. A DORA website and *Navigating DORA* webinar sessions have been developed.
 - An implementation action plan for embedding impact in the University's strategic plans, research assessment processes, and community engagement is underway:
 - The 2018-2023 Research Plan priorities Matching Strengths with Opportunities, Increase Research Capacity, and Driving Innovation all reference DORA and/or research impact, and the 2023-2027 Research and Innovation Plan will do so also (in the Enhancing Institutional Capacity, Connecting Our People with Opportunities, and Leading Research Impact domains)
 - Research impact assessment includes impact narratives, research impact plans, metrics to monitor progress to impact, impact reporting, learning forums, and communities of practice
 - Community engagement includes University-hosted town halls, alumni events, community engagement events, and community partnerships
 - The University's research impact goals will result in:
 - Creating reputational advantage
 - Having research impact and its assessment as part of core business
 - Informed allocation, promotion/tenure, funding, and donor engagement decisions
 - Enabling strategies that support the practice and scholarship of research impact and assessment
 - Valuable research impact reports will use qualitative and quantitative indicators, use consistent data sources, and follow clear guidance on consistent expectations. It will be necessary to balance the labour to produce the report.

- Potential risks include: reporting could lead to a narrow definition of ‘valuable research’, gaming of reporting, reporting could inhibit collaboration and transdisciplinary efforts, insufficient resources to produce substantial reports, time lag to impact could be long, only reporting positives, and double-counting if an individual is in more than one unit
- Next steps include developing a Research Impact Assessment Plan, which will have clear goals, domains and indicators, narratives and stories of impact, and establish a phased approach to research impact assessment
- Discussion included:
 - The Banting postdoctoral fellowship program and especially the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funding agency are increasingly focusing on the DORA principles
 - Whether Open Educational Resources (OERs) will be considered to be meritorious research activity and published research. The presenter observed that OERs are complicated but that download counts and other access data can be measured.
- In response to questions, the presenter stated that:
 - Scholarly societal and community change impacts should be measurable and/or demonstrable through narrative statements, and it is intended that these should be considered in Faculty merit and promotion processes
 - It will be difficult to compare research impacts, especially publications to narrative statements, and so this will be an ongoing and evolving process change

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the January 18, 2023 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary