



General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

February 15, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

AD 167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate
Sandra Amin* – left during Item 6
David Anderson
Stephanie Bishop
Raafat El-Hacha – left during Item 6
Michael Hill* – arrived during Item 5
Aamir Jamal*
Raylene Reimer DeBruyn*
Mary-Jo Romaniuk*
Shelly Russell-Mayhew*
Alberto de Salvatierra*
Rudiger Tscherning*

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi*
Cristina Rai* – left during Item 7

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Sheri Madigan, Academic Co-Chair
Faizal Abdul Careem
Kris Innanen
Katrina Milaney
Kirsten Neprily
Thomas Oldenburg
Piers Steel
Lorraine Venturato

Guests

Adam Cragg, UIQ Executive Director – present for Item 4
John Thrale, Program Manager, UIQ Business – present for Item 4
Karen Benzies, Director, Social Innovation, Office of the VPR – present for Item 5
Steven Bryant, Academic Lead for Transdisciplinary Scholarship, Office of the VPR – present for Item 6
Janaka Ruwanpura*, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President Research (International) – present for Item 7

**Attended virtually*

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the February 15, 2024 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chair

The Co-Chair reported that an announcement will be made soon about the University's new visiting scholars program. The program is intended to bring distinguished world scholars to the University for short-, medium-, or long-term stays, with central funding to be matched by a Faculty or host researcher. The process will be run in cooperation between the Vice-President (Research) office and the Dean's offices. It is expected that the program will bring dozens of visitors to the University per year, and target visitors will be people who would not visit the University otherwise. The program is meant to bridge the University's research strengths and world research leaders, as the University is not always internationally recognised or ranked highly for its research strengths and these connections may raise the University's profile.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- The criteria will be described in an informational package, and there will be clear direction regarding honoraria and payment for expenses such as rent
- The Vice-President (Research) office will provide funding of \$5-20,000 per visitor. The provision of funds to match this central funding will be a requirement of the program.
- It would be expected that the visitor would be on a sabbatical and thus able to dedicate their time to the University while here, including giving public talks, partaking in seminars, and attending receptions
- Students will be able to engage with the visitor at all public events, and the visitor could be invited to give guest lectures. Visiting scholars will not be engaged as sessional instructors. Students are welcome to suggest a potential visitor to their Faculty.
- The focus will be on international visitors, but Canadian visitors will be permitted

3. Approval of the January 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on January 18, 2024 be approved.

Carried

4. University Innovation Quarter Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Adam Cragg, UIQ Executive Director, and John Thrale, Program Manager, UIQ Business, presented this item.

Highlights:

- A presentation was given on the University Innovation Quarter (UIQ), including an overview of the UIQ history, the UIQ vision and mission statements, the corporate organizational structure (the University of Calgary Properties Group, University District Trust, and University Innovation Quarter Trust), the collaboration between the University of Calgary, University of Calgary Properties Group, Innovate Calgary, and Alberta government, the planned innovation districts and communities of innovation, and UIQ maps
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The proximity of the UIQ to the University's main campus is a strong positive, and it is unusual for an institution to have an innovation hub so close to the main campus and this is a significant advantage
 - Renovation and construction will include office, meeting, and laboratory spaces. It is anticipated that the UIQ will also include coffee shops and mixed housing, which will go toward creating a vibrant community environment.
 - The optimistic plan is that the UIC will be complete in ten years. The first major phase, including renovation to produce the Quantum-City facility, will be done in three years.
 - The leasable areas and the anticipated future increase to the value of the land will benefit the University, however the UIQ is not intended to be a revenue property in the way that the University District is

5. Social Innovation Initiative Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Karen Benzies, Director, Social Innovation, Office of the VPR, presented this item.

Highlights:

- A presentation was given on the University's Social Innovation Initiative, including an overview of what social innovation (SI) is, the emergence of SI at the University, current priorities, and recent accomplishments in SI, including:
 - Developing a University definition of SI
 - Hosting a SI community engagement event in May 2022, at which community agencies presented their challenges and connected with University researchers to establish collaborations to co-create solutions
 - Building SI capacity at the University through Translating Research to Action (TR2A) innovative research support services
 - Integrating the University's Social Innovation Week with Innovation Week YYC in November 2023, to avoid duplication and enhance collaboration with community partners

- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The Canadian Forum on Innovation and Societal Impact 2024 is an invitation-only national thinktank to understand how institutions can better mobilize SI knowledge. The International Social Innovation Research Conference and the Social Innovation Impact Measurement Consensus Conference are open to interested persons.
 - The SI team is working with Faculties, including the Faculty of Nursing, Cumming School of Medicine, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, and Faculty of Social Work, to explore opportunities relating to SI, including involving students in meaningful term-sized projects

6. Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Steven Bryant, Academic Lead for Transdisciplinary Scholarship, Office of the VPR, presented this item.

Highlights:

- A presentation was given on transdisciplinary scholarship at the University, including an overview of the Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship (ITS) mission, investment in transdisciplinary scholarship through the President's Strategic Initiatives Fund, the ITS coordinating team and areas of focus Academic Leads, current ITS initiatives and events, the Transdisciplinary Scholarship Connector Grants program, the University of Calgary Research Excellence Chairs program, and new transdisciplinary hires.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - Seventeen funded Chairs have been awarded to Faculties, and hiring searches are currently underway
 - The Transdisciplinary Graduate Certificates program is currently in development. It is expected that the certificates will ladder to a course-based Masters in Transdisciplinary Research/Scholarship program in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
 - The ITS bulletin will raise awareness of transdisciplinary scholarship news and activities

7. International Research Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Janaka Ruwanpura, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (International), presented this item.

Highlights:

- A presentation was given on international research at the University, including:
 - Description of the Strategic Global Initiatives team
 - An overview of 2023 international research activities and initiatives
 - Emerging internal and external opportunities
 - Data relating to international research collaborations, revenue, and publications
- There were no questions
- Janaka Ruwanpura was acknowledged on this occasion of his last visit to the Committee, as his

time as Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (International) is ending soon

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the February 15, 2024 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary