

General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 45
September 17, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

A167

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair
Andy Knight, Academic Co-Chair
Mohamed Abdelsamie
Kevin Dang
Carolyn Emery
Michael Hill
Tom Keenan
Regine King
Seok-Woo Kwon
Sylvie Roy
Annette Timm
Robin Yates – present for Items 1 and 5

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi

Secretary

Susan Belcher

Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Regrets

Karen Benzies
Dawn Kingston
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Cathryn Ryan
Hermann Schaetzl

Guests

Andre Buret, Interim Vice-President (Research) – present for Items 5 and 6
Michael Hart, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Engagement) – present for Item 5

Observers

Frank Maurer, Faculty of Science
Lorna Very, office of the Associate Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 6

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Co-Chair reported that Items 5 and 6 will be addressed out of agenda order, after Item 1, in order to accommodate the guests' availability.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the September 17, 2019 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:

- Carolyn Emery, Kinesiology, and Michael Hill, Medicine, were welcomed to the Committee
- The University is one of seventeen post-secondary institutions selected to participate in the federal Dimensions: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Canada awards program pilot project. The University endorsed the Dimensions charter in June, which commits the University to the principles of collecting data and actively addressing EDI. The University is striking a group to guide the University's EDI initiatives, and applications for a Dimensions award are due in September 2021.
- There have been a number of personnel changes recently in Research Services, but the level of support provided by this unit will remain high
- The ASTech Foundation's awards gala will be held November 1 in Calgary, hosted by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. There are 14 finalists, 10 of whom are from Calgary, and they are in the fields of Medicine, Engineering, and Science.

The Academic Co-Chair encouraged members to submit suggestions for possible items of business for the Committee. It was observed that business is not normally added to agendas at the meetings in order to allow for guests to be invited and appropriate background documentation to be prepared.

In response to a question, the Co-Chair reported that Karen Jackson, General Counsel, is leading a team that is drafting the University's response to the Ministry of Advanced Education's requirement that the University adopt the Chicago Principles or create a document that aligns the University with the basic tenets of the Chicago Principles. It is expected that the University's Statement on Free Expression will be brought to the Committee for discussion in October, as the response is due to be submitted to the Ministry in November.

3. Approval of the May 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on May 21, 2019 be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the 2019-2020 RSC Work Plan

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. The Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Co-Chair reminded the Committee that a work plan is generated every September, setting out the business that is expected for the Committee over the meeting year
- The Committee reviewed the draft 2019-2020 work plan, and decided to add the following:
 - Discuss the University's Statement on Free Expression in October
 - Discuss Indigenous research again in November
 - Receive a report from the Committee's representative on the Information Asset Management Committee in November
 - Discuss open data, data governance, and open access in January
- In response to a question, the University Secretary confirmed that the Committee will receive the finalised work plan after it is approved by the General Faculties Council in October

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the RSC Work Plan for the 2019-2020 academic year, in the form provided to the Committee, with the requested amendments.

Carried

5. Indigenous Research at the University of Calgary

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), Michael Hart, and Andre Buret presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reported that the Office of Indigenous Engagement (within the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)) and the Office of the Vice-President (Research) are launching a joint initiative to examine Indigenous research at the University and to consider the overlaps between the Research Plan and the Indigenous Strategy. The Committee further learned that a document entitled *A Proposed Parallel Path Process to Integrate the Indigenous Strategy and Research Plan* is being developed, and that an Indigenous Support Team is being established within Research Services.
- The proponents provided an overview of recent national reports and initiatives relating to Indigenous research, and highlighted the need to reflect and respect Indigenous perspectives at the University
- The Committee discussed
 - The steering committee that is being formed, and how this will be populated
 - That this initiative will overlap with other initiatives at the University, such as the

- Indigenous Strategy implementation working group in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and so strong communication will be needed
- That there is a range of Indigenous research already ongoing at the University, and that this initiative is not meant to simply catalogue research areas but facilitate the building of relationships and processes and foster the growth of new research areas
 - That Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, including faculty, post-doctoral scholars, graduate students and undergraduate students, conducting Indigenous research will benefit from this initiative
 - The challenges faced by Indigenous faculty members, and the challenges in hiring to Indigenous Canada Research Chairs
 - The University's Indigenous Relations Training Program, which is available to staff, students, alumni and others for professional and personal development, and other efforts to engage with and understand Indigenous communities
 - The need to streamline some systems in order to facilitate research
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - An environmental scan of Indigenous research will be conducted once a data analyst is hired within the office of the Vice-President (Research)
 - This initiative will result in a network of support units, so that the University's researchers conducting research outside of southern Alberta can be connected with support in other areas
 - The Co-Chair reminded members that this item will return to a future meeting for further discussion

6. 2018-19 Research Plan Status Update

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson and Andre Buret presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponents reviewed the five priorities of the Academic Plan and the Research Plan: 'Prioritizing People', 'Connecting Communities', 'Matching Strengths with Opportunities', 'Increasing Research Capacity' and 'Driving Innovation', and then updated the Committee on the implementation of the University's Research Plan
- The Committee discussed:
 - That the University is developing a solid platform relating to innovation, including the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, but that the vision to launch a prize to recognize innovation has not yet been tackled
 - The recently-identified emerging areas of strength, including 'Child Health and Wellness' and 'One Health', and other cross-cutting initiatives including 'Cybersecurity' and 'Precision Medicine'
 - The success of the *Eyes High* post-doctoral scholars program, and that the future of this program will depend on funding
 - That it is important to consider that innovation should be needed and, in some cases,

solving problems. It was noted that the University's affiliation with Innovate Calgary relates to this, in part because Innovate Calgary's purpose includes the facilitation of relationships and the development of opportunities across disciplines. The proponents observed that Steve Larter, Associate Vice-President (Research - Innovation), and Marcello Tonelli, Associate Vice-President (Health Research), could be invited to an upcoming meeting to speak with the Committee on innovation at the University.

- In response to a question, the proponents reported that an announcement will soon be made regarding an initiative relating to knowledge engagement and social innovation

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the September 17, 2019 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Susan Belcher
University Secretary