

General Faculties Council  
**RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**  
Approved Minutes

Meeting 46  
October 22, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

A167

***Voting Members***

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair  
Andy Knight, Academic Co-Chair  
Mohamed Abdelsamie  
Karen Benzies  
Kevin Dang  
Michael Hill – arrived during Item 4  
Claire Kamaliddin  
Regine King  
Seok-Woo Kwon  
Sylvie Roy  
Annette Timm  
Robin Yates – arrived during Item 2

***Non-Voting Members***

Hamid Habibi

***Secretary***

Susan Belcher

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Carolyn Emery  
Tom Keenan  
Dawn Kingston  
Mary-Jo Romaniuk  
Cathryn Ryan  
Hermann Schaetzi

***Guests***

Karen Jackson, General Counsel – present for Item 4  
Steve Larter, Associate Vice-President (Research - Innovation) – present for Item 5  
John Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Innovate Calgary – present for Item 5

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the October 22, 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:

- Claire Kamaliddin and Karen Benzies were welcomed to their first meeting
- Representatives of the Vice-President (Research) office and Research Services will be continuing to meet with units across the University to communicate about recent changes within the Research area and to discuss issues of interest. These meetings will be in the form of town halls or visits to Faculty Council meetings. In response to a question, it was confirmed that these meetings can be arranged to suit the needs of the unit, such as timing to occur as a Faculty's strategic planning is beginning.

The Academic Co-Chair made no remarks.

## **3. Approval of the September 17, 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 September 17, 2019 be approved.

**Carried**

## **4. Statement on Free Expression**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Karen Jackson presented this item.

Highlights:

- The proponent reviewed development of the University's Statement on Free Expression, emphasizing that the provincial government requires that the University have this, and highlighting recent changes made during consultation
- Discussion included that:
  - The Statement is an attempt to strike a balance between articulating the University's commitment to an environment of respectful and civil expression while ensuring support for marginalized persons
  - It is necessary to be clear about when speech, such as that relating to issues such as the Holocaust, climate change, or vaccination, is considered to be defamation or hate speech
  - While it is possible to arrange events to counter controversial expressions, which it has been suggested should be done rather than denying controversial events, this could put a burden on marginalized or otherwise busy individuals
  - That some groups may become emboldened by the publication of the Statement, and it must be considered how any controversial events will be handled

- In response to questions, it was confirmed that:
  - Instructors have the authority to manage speech in the classroom in order to maintain a culture of inclusivity, respect and civility
  - A communications plan will be established
  - The University policy entitled Use of University Facilities for Non-Academic Purposes will be reviewed once the Statement has been approved. It was noted that the University wishes to continue the requirement that an event's organiser will be responsible for any costs associated with additional security.
- The Committee suggested that the first sentence of the Statement, using the word 'institution', be revised to refer to the University as an "academic and research *university*", as Alberta's Comprehensive Academic and Research Institutions (CARI) group was recently renamed to Comprehensive Academic and Research Universities (CARU).
- The Committee was informed that the Statement will be submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education by the November 15, 2019 deadline, and that the Ministry will be reviewing the document and providing feedback. The Statement will be returned to the General Faculties Council for discussion and to the Board of Governors for approval, and then the Statement will be posted publicly by the deadline of December 15, 2019.

## 5. Innovation at UCalgary

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Steve Larter and John Wilson presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenters spoke of the importance of innovation for the betterment of society, and highlighted the innovation-related initiatives at the University, including the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking, Creative Destruction Lab - Rockies, and Innovate Calgary. The Committee was reminded that innovation is part of a broad spectrum of research, including discovery of new knowledge, invention, applied research, and entrepreneurship. It was reported that the University has set a goal that 50% of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral scholars will have venture and innovation experiences by 2030.
- Discussion included:
  - That the University does not currently have a system in place to accurately measure the innovation and experiential learning activities of students
  - That many of the University's innovation initiatives are currently related to the science and medicine disciplines, but there are many other areas of academic activity in which innovation can be grown. It was reported that a new unit within Research Services is being established, with focus on social sciences innovation.
  - The University's new Life Sciences Innovation Hub will enable the development of technology transfer, start-up companies, and industry liaison
  - New funding opportunities are being developed and identified, including for fellowships and project seed monies

- That some students work with supervisors with innovation and entrepreneurship experience, but other students need guidance in these areas. It was observed that the Hunter Hub is intended to support both undergraduate and graduate students.
- That intellectual property can be a complex matter, and clear principles relating to intellectual property, particularly as it relates to students and staff, are needed

**6. Approved 2019-2020 RSC Work Plan**

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Adjournment**

The October 22, 2019 meeting of the Research and Scholarship Committee was adjourned by consensus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

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Susan Belcher  
University Secretary