



General Faculties Council
RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes

Meeting 52
December 17, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

By Zoom platform

Voting Members

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair
Andy Knight, Academic Co-Chair
Semhar Abraha
Lyndsay Campbell
David Eaton
Carolyn Emery
Sabine Gilch – left during Item 5
Claire Kamaliddin
Tom Keenan
Alex Paquette
Cathryn Ryan
Dora Tam
Annette Timm
Robin Yates – left during Item 4

Non-Voting Members

Hamid Habibi
Thomas Oldenburg

Secretary and Scribe

Elizabeth Sjogren

Staff

Tasha Hodzic

Regrets

Michael Hill
Dawn Kingston
Seok-Woo Kwon
Mary-Jo Romaniuk
Sylvie Roy

Guests

Steven Bryant, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 5
Petra Dolata, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 5
Ian Gates, Schulich School of Engineering – present for Item 5
William Ghali, Vice-President (Research) – present for Items 4-5
Yrjo Koskinen, Haskayne School of Business – present for Item 5
Stephen Larter, Faculty of Science – present for Item 5
Bob Skinner, School of Public Policy – present for Item 5
Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) – present for Item 4
Florentine Strzelczyk, Deputy Provost – present for Item 4
Rudy Tscherning, Faculty of Law – present for Item 5
Jennifer Winter, Faculty of Arts – present for Item 5

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 December 17, 2020 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 provincial government has tightened the COVID-19 restrictions. The University will keep as much of the University open as is permitted under the provincial guidelines, but any research that can be done at home should be done at home. The University's research enterprise has been effective at setting up workplace safety plans and following protocols, and to date there have not been outbreaks in any laboratories. It is hoped that operations will return to normal in the fall.
- The University's participation in the Dimensions: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Canada pilot project is advancing EDI within the research portfolio
- The major grant processes are continuing, and Round 11 of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) competition is soon opening. The University did well in CFI Round 10.

The Academic Co-Chair thanked members for their efforts and hoped that everyone will be able to take a break during the University's holiday closure.

In response to questions, it was reported that:

- Workplace safety plans established in the summer should be reviewed in order to ensure that they are compliant with the current COVID-19 guidelines. For example, it is no longer permitted for researchers to be unmasked in a shared space such as a laboratory. Masks may be removed in a personal office or a socially distanced cubicle, but a mask must be worn in a laboratory even if a researcher is alone.
- It is permitted to pick up items from the University, following protocols, but if someone is coming to the University for an extended period of time they must register with their Department and ensure that they are named in their unit's workplace safety plan
- It is understood that, at this time, only one person is allowed in a vehicle when conducting University business

3. Approval of the November 19, 2020 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 November 19, 2020 be approved.

Carried

4. Dimensions Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Pilot Update

Malinda Smith, Florentine Strzelczyk, and Rob Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the Dimensions pilot program, which is a federal program intended to enhance research excellence through increased equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). The presenters reported that the University is a signatory to the Dimensions EDI Charter and is one of 17 post-secondary institutions chosen to participate in the pilot; that the EDI groups include but are not limited to women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, members of visible minority or racialized groups, and members of LGBTQ2+ communities; and that Dimensions encompasses all disciplines.
- The presenters reported that the University's commitment to EDI is being manifested through initiatives including the Office of EDI, Dimensions EDI executive and steering committees, EDI literacy workshops and training, EDI events, incorporating EDI into policies, processes and practices, inclusive hiring, the QCentre, the Women's Resource Centre, within some academic programs (e.g. Indigenous Studies, Women's Studies, and International Development), hiring EDI specialists in the Taylor Institute and Office of the Vice-President (Research), through the CFREF Equity Plan and CDI Institutional Action Plan, and the Indigenous Research Support Team
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
 - The University conducted an equity pay study in 2018, but this did not specifically include all EDI groups. It is expected that this will be reviewed fully at some point in the near future, as inequity among groups is a concern.
 - The Office of Institutional Analysis can assist with the collection and analysis of data
 - The reliance on self-identification is normal for EDI. It is possible that Statistics Canada may work with organizations to develop a standardized approach to collecting EDI data.
 - The Dimensions steering committee has been included in consultation for the University's Growth Through Focus Vision
- Discussion included:
 - The federal 50-30 Challenge, which encourages organizations to aspire to 50% gender parity and 30% representation of other under-represented groups
 - That effort has been made to accommodate students with disabilities in the classroom, and it is also important to accommodate researchers with disabilities in laboratories

5. Energy Research Strategy 2

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Ian Gates and Jennifer Winter presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the Energy Research Strategy 2 (ERS2), reporting that the Energy Research Strategy underwent an external review in 2019 and the ERS2 has been developed

in consideration of the review's report and recommendations. The presenters described the ERS2's development process, motivators, and principles, that the updated strategy incorporates current economic and policy matters as well as building on the University's strengths, and that four specific projects that have been identified (Achieving Net Zero in a Democratic Society, Hydrogen Systems and Economy, Transport, and Business and Economic Implications of Energy Transition).

- In response to a question, it was reported that the ERS2 does not provide funding to researchers; it is a construct to bring researchers together
- Discussion included:
 - How the transdisciplinary nature of the ERS2 is being achieved
 - How the ERS2's projects differ from the University of Alberta's CFREF program Future Energy Systems
 - That it is important to broaden the public's understanding of 'energy' and global challenges

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Research and Scholarship Committee adjourn the December 17, 2020 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Elizabeth Sjogren
Meeting Secretary