



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

December 15, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom

***Voting Members***

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair Designate  
Dora Tam, Academic Co-Chair  
Michael Hill – arrived during Item 2  
Shaziah Jinnah Morsette  
Claire Kamaliddin – left during Item 6  
Sheri Madigan – left during Item 6  
Mary-Jo Romaniuk – left after Item 5  
Alberto de Salvatierra  
Shane Sinclair  
Piers Steel  
Rudiger Tscherning – left during Item 6

***Non-Voting Members***

Cristina Rai

***Secretary***

Courtney McVie

***Scribe***

Elizabeth Sjogren

***Regrets***

Ariel Ducey  
David Eaton  
Raafat El-Hacha  
Carolyn Emery  
Thomas Oldenburg  
Shelly Russell-Mayhew  
James Steele  
Lindsay Tedds

***Guests***

Steven Bryant, Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and Chief Scientist, Creative Destruction Lab -  
Rockies – present for Item 5  
Bill Ghali, Vice-President (Research) (VPR) – present for Items 5 & 6  
Carmen Rieder, Manager, Industry Engagement, Office of the VPR – present for Item 6  
Malinda Smith, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Research (EDI) – present for Item 4

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The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the December 15, 2022 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 and provincial governments are putting more focus on research security, including concerns about foreign threats. The Tri-Council has rolled out a risk assessment tool relating to research security and is providing funding to institutions to establish programs in support of good research security practices, policies, and procedures. This will be a future topic of discussion for the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC).
- Martha Wallace has joined Research Services as the University's new Director of Research Security, and her team will be connecting with the University community and working on matters relating to research security

The Academic Co-Chair included the following in her remarks:

- This is the last meeting of the term, and members are encouraged to take time off to rejuvenate during the December closure
- Carolyn Emery, Faculty of Kinesiology, and Claire Kamaliddin, Postdoctoral Association, were thanked on this occasion of their last RSC meeting

## **3. Approval of the October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on October 20, 2022 be approved.

**Carried**

Claire Kamaliddin abstained.

## **4. Tri-Agency Dimensions Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Pilot Program Update**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Malinda Smith presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter reported on the Dimensions Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Pilot Program, including that:
  - The University is one of 17 postsecondary institutions participating in the Dimensions EDI pilot. Dimensions EDI is a Tri-Agency program intended to foster change within the research ecosystem at Canadian institutions, and the program's specific objectives include to:
    - Support a culture of critical self-reflection related to EDI
    - Create a culture of evidence-based EDI work, using both qualitative and quantitative data
    - Address the key challenges that present barriers to career progression

- Create a community of practice that shares best practices and tools
- More than 75 people are involved at the University, including on the Dimensions EDI Executive Committee, Steering Committee, Parallel Paths Working Group (PPWG), seven Equitable Pathways Working Groups (EPWGs), and an Intersectionality Working Group that brings the Dimensions EDI Chair, Vice-Chair, and Manager together with the co-chairs of the PPWG and EPWGs. The program is modeling EDI, with people from equity-deserving groups serving on the committees and working groups.
- Indigenous engagement is complementary to, and not competing with, EDI. Equity-deserving groups include women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, racialized/visible minority persons, and members of LGBTQ2+ communities.
- In October 2022, the University applied for a construction-level Dimensions EDI recognition award, which included an institutional self-assessment, engagement strategy, quantitative and qualitative EDI data analysis, and an action plan demonstrating that the University is making progress toward the objectives of the Dimensions EDI program. Feedback will be received in mid-December, an oral presentation will be made in late January, and then the application results will be communicated in Spring 2023.
- The quantitative EDI data will be released in dashboard form soon. An ongoing project is the Dimensions Voices Storytelling Project, which will raise awareness of EDI at the University, allow for learning about pathways, pipelines, opportunities and blockages, and support thinking about transformation at the University.
- Discussion included that:
  - The University's EDI action plan is ambitious, but the University will advance along this journey as EDI literacy, commitment to effective change, and breaking barriers grow
  - The University's signing of the Dimensions: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Canada Charter was a commitment to taking concrete action
  - The qualitative component of the EDI data analysis is applauded, as rich stories are important when doing actionable work
- In response to a question, it was reported that Dimensions EDI did not provide guidelines regarding privacy, but the University has robust privacy standards. The University's quantitative data is disaggregated, and pseudonyms are being used for the qualitative stories.

## **5. Institute for Transdisciplinary Scholarship**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Steven Bryant and Bill Ghali presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on transdisciplinary initiatives at the University, including that:
  - Work on transdisciplinary scholarship has been underway since Spring 2022, and builds upon the eight cross-cutting research themes in the University's Research Strategy and five areas of focus in the University's Framework for Growth
  - Key progress has included:
    - The appointment of Steven Bryant, former Canada Excellence Research Chair, as Scientific Lead
    - The development of a University definition of transdisciplinarity through

engagement with scholars across disciplines, and identifying barriers and enablers to transdisciplinary work

- The provision of funding through the President's Strategic Initiative Fund to support the development of transdisciplinary scholarship initiatives and programs
- Transdisciplinary scholarship gatherings were held in November/December 2022 and more will occur in 2023. These gatherings support dialogue about transdisciplinary work, connecting to networks, identification of grand challenges and priority projects, and signaling of upcoming investments. The five areas of focus of these networks are: Energy Transformation, Health and Life, Cities and Communities, Digital Worlds, and Democracy and Social Change (Just Societies).
- Next steps include developing a communications plan, following up on the transdisciplinary scholarship gatherings, establishing an Institute for Transdisciplinary Scholarship (ITS) governance model and terms of reference, hiring ITS researchers and research coordinators, ongoing discussions about transdisciplinarity, and development of a proposal for a campus-wide transdisciplinary mega-project
- Discussion included that:
  - Catalyst seed money is important in advancing the research enterprise, and connecting crosscutting initiatives with funding is encouraged
  - The capstone projects in some embedded certificate programs allow for interdisciplinary work at the undergraduate level and are opportunities that enhance the quality of education
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The next series of transdisciplinary scholarship gatherings will engage graduate students and postdoctoral scholars
  - The Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) awards program can be integrated with the University's transdisciplinary initiatives
  - There are four Vice-President Research (VPR) Catalyst Grants program intakes (November, February, May, and August). It is intended that unsuccessful applicants will be provided with feedback in a timely manner, and they are encouraged to apply again. Each intake has an approximately 60% success rate, and over time 90% of applicants have been funded by the VPR Catalyst Grants program.

## **6. Introduction: Industry Engagement**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Carmen Rieder and Bill Ghali presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported on the Industry Engagement initiative, including that:
  - The University's Industry Engagement unit was established in May 2022. The unit operates within a framework of four pillars (Match, Support, Advance, and Promote) and is responsible for:
    - Coordinating the potential partnering of researchers and companies in collaborative and innovative research projects by matching partners with

- synergistic research goals
  - Identifying opportunities and supporting applications for funding
  - Helping to advance partnerships towards new project opportunities
  - Promoting the University's expertise and facilities to companies, and promoting industry research opportunities to faculty
  - Reviewing the University's industry engagement activities and identifying areas for improvement
- The services that the Industry Engagement unit provides to faculty include:
  - Advising on industry engagement plans and pitching materials
  - Inviting industry partners to industry-relevant events
  - Exploring industry-partnered funding programs
  - Accepting referrals when a company's direct request to a faculty member is outside their research interests
- Members of the Industry Engagement unit are available to present to committees, Faculties, Departments, and other units. The Industry Engagement unit also has a website and a listserv (mailman) system to provide information, and a matching database is in development.
- In response to questions, it was reported that the Industry Engagement unit works closely with other units, including Innovate Calgary, the Advancement office, and the Mitacs office, and these units refer requests and opportunities to each other as appropriate.

## **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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Courtney McVie  
University Secretary