

Thursday, November 21, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
Meeting #78

Zoom

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**Voting Members**

Robert Thompson, Co-Chair  
Sheri Madigan, Academic Co-Chair  
Ayan Chanda  
Jessie Dinh  
Michael Hill – arrived during Item 3, left during Item 5  
Kris Innanen  
Yrjo Koskinen  
Daniel McGrath – left during Item 4  
Alexandria Poppendorf  
Shelly Russell-Mayhew  
Lorraine Venturato

**Non-Voting Members**

Alyona Belikova  
Hamid Habibi  
Katrina Milaney – arrived during Item 1

**Guests**

Ottilia Berze, Consultant, Open Science – present for Item 5  
Tiago Lier, Director, Grants, Awards and Ethics, Research Services – present for Item 4  
Hector MacIntyre, Manager, Postdoctoral Office and Internal Grants – present for Item 4  
Braden Manns, Associate Vice-President Research (Health) and Senior Associate Dean, Health Research, CSM  
– present for Item 5  
Sabrina Perić, Academic Co-Lead, Energy Futures ITS Area of Focus – present for item 3  
Douglas Robb, Academic Co-Lead, Energy Futures ITS Area of Focus – present for item 3  
Connie Tsang, Senior Specialist, ITS, Energy Futures Area of Focus – present for item 3  
Stephanie Warner, Manager, Knowledge to Impact – present for Item 5  
Gregory Welch, Academic Co-Lead, Energy Futures ITS Area of Focus – present for item 3

**Secretary and Scribe**

Elizabeth Sjogren

**Staff**

Vanessa Kozielec

**Regrets**

Aamir Jamal  
Cristina Rai  
Alex Ramirez-Serrano  
Raylene Reimer DeBruyn  
Mary-Jo Romaniuk  
Rudiger Tscherning  
James Wasmuth

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*Secretary's Note: In accordance with the General Faculties Council (GFC) Bylaws Section 8.2, the motion box and "Carried" denotation serves as the entry in the minutes that the Chair of the meeting declared the motion carried.*

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

## 1. Meeting Opening

### 1.1. Approval of the Agenda

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Agenda for the November 21, 2024 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

### 1.2. Remarks of the Co-Chair and Academic Co-Chair

The Co-Chair included the following in his remarks:

- The Tri-Council grant applications season has ended. An added complexity this year was requirements relating to research security. The results of the competitions will be heard in the spring.
- The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Innovation Fund competition is underway. Teams have received feedback on their applications, and the applications will be submitted by February 4, 2025. The total budget for this research infrastructure program is nearly \$180 million. The overall success rate for this program is approximately 35%, but the University to date has achieved better than this.
- The Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) competition is also underway. Initial one-page letters of intent will expand to five-page internal applications, and then the research areas to be pursued will be identified. The competition will progress through 2025 and then the recipients will be announced in 2026.

The Academic Co-Chair reported that the Web of Science 2024 Highly Cited Researchers report includes 13 researchers from the University of Calgary. This is a good metric demonstrating the University's success, as a researcher who makes this list ranks in the top 1% by citations in their field and is judged to have received recognition from the international research community.

## 2. Approval of the October 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

That the Minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on October 17, 2024 be approved.

**Carried**

## 3. Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship (ITS) Spotlight on Energy Futures

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Katrina Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research, Sabrina Perić, Academic Co-Lead, Energy Futures ITS Area of Focus, Douglas Robb, Academic Co-Lead, Energy Futures ITS Area of Focus, Gregory Welch, Academic Co-Lead, Energy Futures ITS Area of Focus, and Connie Tsang, Senior Specialist, ITS, Energy Futures Area of Focus, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenters gave a presentation on the ITS Energy Futures theme, including:
  - The Energy Futures portfolio looks at the evolving energy system and considers challenges and opportunities in areas such as climate and environment, energy use and sources, politics and policy, economics, and the socio-cultural impacts of energy.
  - The Energy Futures vision is: 1) to foster innovative transdisciplinary research across the University, 2) to lay the groundwork for innovative transdisciplinary highly qualified personnel (HQP) training and activities at the University, and 3) to strengthen knowledge mobilization, translation and policy intervention capacity for all University researchers.
  - The underlying themes relating to Energy Futures identified during ITS gatherings and meetings with HQP are: energy equity, environmental justice, and sustainability.
  - The Energy Futures portfolio is working to foster transdisciplinary work through many mechanisms:
    - Energy Collison Series lunchtime meet-and-greets/roundtable sessions.
    - An Energy Chats podcast and an Energy Futures bulletin.
    - Events including Faculty-specific gatherings, cross-Faculty gatherings, and cross-campus reading and discussion groups.
    - Leveraging strategic partnerships such as with the Aberdeen Interdisciplinary Institute.
    - The 2025 Cross-Campus Energy Futures Design Competition, which will have teams of faculty, postdocs, and students working on a real-life challenge and competing for a prize.
    - Providing training opportunities and workshops in knowledge mobilization, translation, and policy intervention
  - Outcomes will include bringing together transdisciplinary research teams and enabling teams to apply for significant research grants; developing summer schools and student exchanges, international collaborations, and forums to connect with community and industry; and producing knowledge translation products such as white papers, patent applications, etc.
- In response to a question, it was reported that effort is being made to engage students in transdisciplinary work, including through connecting with the transdisciplinary programs and non-program events that operate out of the Graduate College.

**4. Postdoctoral Office Update**

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Katrina Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research, Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President Research, Hector MacIntyre, Manager, Postdoctoral Office and Internal Grants, and Tiago Lier, Director, Grants, Awards and Ethics, Research Services, presented this item.

**Highlights:**

- The presenters gave a presentation reporting on matters the Postdoctoral Office has handled over the past year, including:
  - A new Collective Agreement 2024-2028 between the University and the Postdoctoral Association was signed. The agreement includes annual increases to minimum salary level, annual increases for current postdoctoral salaries, introduction of a flexible health/wellness spending account (\$500/year), and an increase to the minimum for concurrent appointments (10% of original salary now paid as top-up to fellowships, up from 5%). Letters of understanding were added relating to intellectual property and authorship, annual performance evaluations, and hours of work.

- In the 2024 federal budget, the government increased the postdoctoral fellowship award values by more than 50% effective Sept. 1, 2024, from \$45,000 to \$70,000 per year.
- The Tri-Council has committed to moving toward a simplified program structure of one award offering per major level of study/training (Masters, PhD, Postdoctoral) and is expected to open eligibility to international applicants. It is anticipated that, after the 2024-2025 cycle, the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship will be discontinued.
- Factors impacting the recruitment of postdocs include safeguarding research; recent reductions in federal immigration targets; new costs related to features of the 2024-2028 Collective Agreement; remote work preferences and project-specific needs; equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility; and the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA).
- The presenters also reported that:
  - There are currently 574 postdocs at the University (including 75 with fellowships). 41% are international and 59% are Canadian or permanent residents. The top countries of international origin are Iran, China, India, the United States, and Brazil.
  - The median salary for Postdoctoral Scholars is now \$70,000 and for Postdoctoral Associates is \$56,100.
  - The top five external funders of postdocs are the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Alberta Innovates, the government of Canada (for example, through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)), and Mitacs. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) is also in the top ten and growing its postdoc funding. Mitacs internships have grown in prominence in recent years as a source of postdoc funding.
- In response to questions, it was reported that:
  - The postdocs population is stable at 550-575 persons. It is desired to increase this to over 600. The demographics of postdocs fluctuate throughout the year.
  - Cost of living is a factor in whether a postdoc will decide to come to Calgary.
  - Information about the postdoc salaries provided by individual Faculties can be provided.
- Discussion included positivity about the Tri-Council opening eligibility for postdoc funding to international persons, as the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship is currently the primary source of funding.

## 5. Open Science

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Katrina Milaney, Associate Vice-President Research, Braden Manns, Associate Vice-President Research (Health) and Senior Associate Dean, Health Research, Cumming School of Medicine, Stephanie Warner, Manager, Knowledge to Impact, and Ottilia Berze, Consultant, Open Science, presented this item.

### Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation on Open Science, including:
  - The Knowledge to Impact team, formerly the Knowledge Engagement team, supports collaborative efforts to maximize and recognize the positive impacts of research.
  - The University made a commitment to an Open Science initiative in Domain 4 (Leading Research Impact) of the *Research and Innovation Plan*.
  - Open Science means open scholarship, and the movement goes beyond the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Not all research can be open, but this initiative is striving for research to be as open as possible.

- The values of Open Science are: quality and integrity; collective benefit; equity and fairness; and diversity and inclusiveness. The principles are: transparency, scrutiny, critique, and reproducibility; equality of opportunities; responsibility, respect, and accountability; collaboration, participation, and inclusion; flexibility; and sustainability.
- There are four pillars to Open Science: open scientific knowledge including scientific publications, open research data, open educational resources, open source software and source code, and open hardware; open virtual and physical science infrastructure; open engagement of societal actors including crowdfunding, crowdsourcing, scientific volunteering, and citizen participation; and open dialogue with other knowledge systems including Indigenous peoples, marginalized scholars, and local communities.
- The benefits to the University in participating in Open Science are: improving our reputation and ranking as a leading research university; attracting and retaining talented faculty, researchers, students, and staff; increasing funding opportunities and partnerships from various sources; and enhancing social responsibility and impact on local, national, and global challenges.
- Open Science at the University currently involves: the Tanenbaum Open Science Institute and The Neuro within the Hotchkiss Brain Institute, the Open Services Suite and dedicated Librarians in Libraries and Cultural Resources, and various University strategies and initiatives.
- Next steps in advancing Open Science at the University will include: building an open science community and consulting with experts; developing Indigenous research pathways; establishing more guidance, training, and tools; enabling members of the University community to align with the Open Science principles; preparing for the roll-out of new Tri-Agency Open Access Policy and Research Data Management Plan requirements; and identifying quantitative and qualitative indicators of progress.
- The presenters reported that a webinar entitled Moving UCalgary Forward with Open Science will be held December 2, 2024.
- Discussion included:
  - Researchers spend a lot of time developing and commercializing their ideas, and there is concern about intellectual property being impacted by the Open Science movement. The presenters observed that there is collaboration in innovation, not all data and processes have to be open indiscriminately, and intellectual property can be protected, and it was expressed that researchers are simply asked to consider who would benefit from sharing and how this could be done.
  - Open educational resources are important to students as these mitigate barriers to knowledge.
- In response to a question, it was stated that Open Science does not force a researcher to share data that they are contractually prohibited from sharing, such as data acquired from commercially-purchased databases. It was noted that the pathway to openness could be different across disciplines, and it was suggested that methods, code, and other things can be shared without sharing data.

## **6. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **7. Adjournment**

The November 21, 2024 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting was adjourned by consensus at 3:30 p.m.