General Faculties Council
Research and Scholarship Committee
Approved Minutes

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting #82   A167/Zoom

Voting Members
Robert Thompson, Co-Chair
Sheri Madigan, Academic Co-Chair
Gabriela Dziegielewska*
Michael Hill*
Yrjo Koskinen*
Dongyan Niu – left during Item 5
Raylene Reimer DeBruyn – left during Item 5
Mary-Jo Romaniuk* – left during Item 4
Joshua Taron

Non-Voting Members
Hamid Habibi* – left during Item 5
Cristina Rai*

Meeting Secretary & Scribe
Michelle Speta

Regrets
Jacob Amengor
Alyona Belikova
Ayan Chanda
Kris Innanen
Aamir Jamal
Daniel McGrath
Katrina Milaney
Alex Ramirez-Serrano
Shelly Russell-Mayhew
Rudiger Tscherning

Guests
Ian Gates, Associate Vice-President Research (Innovation) – present for Item 7
William Ghali*, Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 5
Tiago Lier, Director, Grants, Awards and Ethics, Research Services Office – present for Items 3 and 4
Erin O'Toole, Specialist, Research Awards and Chairs, Research Services Office – present for Item 4
Wylie Pietsch, Graduate Students' Association
Cait Reynolds, Graduate Student Intern, Research Services Office – present for Item 3
Maryam Tahir, Specialist, Research Grants and Awards, Research Services Office – present for Item 4
Alexander Thistlewood, Specialist, Research Data Management, Research Services Office – present for Item 3
Lorna Very*, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President (Research) – present for Item 5

*Attended virtually

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.

1. **Meeting Opening**

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1.1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the May 15, 2025 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

1.2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chair included the following in his remarks:

- It was announced on May 6, 2025 that the University will be a hub of the XPRIZE organization. The XPRIZE Canada Hub will expand the capacity of innovators by connecting, supporting, and accelerating research teams through XPRIZE activities and challenges.

- At last count, the University has 27 notice-of-intent submissions for the Tri-Council's 2026 New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Transformation program. The program has a multidisciplinary requirement and is not for infrastructure, and these are six-year $24 million grants. Six grants will be awarded.

- Gabriela Dziegielewska, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) was welcomed on this occasion of her first meeting as a member of the Research and Scholarship Committee. Wylie Pietsch, Graduate Students' Association, was welcomed as an observer of this meeting. Sheri Madigan, Raylene Reimer-De Bruyn, and Hamid Habibi were acknowledged on this occasion of their last meeting.

2. Approval of the April 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the minutes of the Research and Scholarship Committee meeting held on April 17, 2025 be approved.

Carried

3. Research Data Management Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research) and Executive Director of the Research Services Office (RSO), Tiago Lier, Director, Grants, Awards, and Ethics, RSO, Alexander Thistlewood, Specialist, Research Data Management, RSO, Mary-Jo Romaniuk, Vice-Provost, Libraries and Cultural Resources, and Jennifer Abel, Librarian, Research Data Management, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the Tri-Council has placed more attention on research data management in recent years. The presenters then gave a presentation about this, including that:

  o The Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy launched in 2021 and requires institutions to have research data management strategies in place.

  o Research data management plans are currently being piloted and will be required more widely soon, as

part of the grant application process. Researchers will be required to have detailed plans for managing research project data responsibly, from data collection through long-term preservation and sharing.

- o Data deposit requirements will be coming in 2026. The research data associated with grant-supported publications will need to be deposited (in a manner yet to be announced).

- o The University has a steering committee within the Research Services Office (RSO) overseeing the implementation of the University's Research Data Management Strategy and ensuring that the University's commitments are being met. Services available include research data management plan training, review of research data management plans, and information technologies (IT) infrastructure. The steering committee has three working groups: policies and procedures, sensitive data, and Indigenous data sovereignty.

- Discussion included that:

- o It is important to know where a research data repository is located. The presenters reported that the University has internal repositories, uses a national repository, and has a subscription to Borealis: the Canadian Dataverse Repository.

- o Data curation is part of proper data storage, and this takes human effort.

- o There may be hesitation to use collaborative data deposit repositories by researchers who do not wish to share their research data, for example if they plan to apply for a patent. Some data are proprietary and so the researcher may not be able to comply with data deposit requirements unless under certain conditions.

- o The need to produce a research data management plan is another responsibility for researchers, but there is understanding of why this is important.

- o There is currently some confusion around the required content for a research data management plan. The content and length of research data management plans will also differ by discipline. The presenters reported that a rubric is being developed by the RSO team.

- In response to questions, it was reported that:

- o Indigenous data is currently exempt from the research data deposit requirements.

- o Research not funded by the Tri-Council is exempt from the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy, but other funding agencies have similar policies and requirements.

4.   Research Awards Initiative – Phase 2

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Robert Thompson, Associate Vice-President (Research) and Executive Director, Tiago Lier, Director, Grants, Awards, and Ethics, RSO, Maryam Tahir, Specialist, Research Grants and Awards, RSO, and Erin O'Toole, Specialist, Research Awards, RSO, presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an update on the Research Awards Initiative that was started in 2017 and is now entering its second phase, including that:

- o The objective of the Research Awards Initiative is to build a culture where faculty members actively seek to nominate their colleagues for research awards and to help their peers and the University gain recognition for its research excellence.

- o The Research Awards Initiative - Phase 1 Implementation Plan set three targets to be achieved by 2024: to increase the number of research award nominations, to increase the number of awards received,

and to increase the number of prestigious awards received.

- o The SUPPORT: Research Awards Committee was established by the RSO during the Research Awards Initiative - Phase 1, to improve research award nominations through peer review.

- o The Research Awards Initiative - Phase 2 (2025-2029) targets aim to: maintain the momentum of Research Awards Initiative - Phase 1 by continuing to increase nomination rates and award success rates, increase nominations of early-career researchers, and enhance efforts for international award nominations. An institutional research awards recognition event will be created and an enhanced research awards communications strategy will be developed.

- o A plan to collect and analyse equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) data relating to research awards is being developed.

- o The Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) principles will inform internal processes for selecting candidates for awards.

- Discussion included that:

- o Awards recipients could be celebrated at an event similar to the University of Calgary Teaching Awards or President's Reception events. Such an event should be held during the Winter term as the Fall term is busy with grant application deadlines, and the event could engage graduate student researchers and donors.

- o UToday articles highlighting early-career researchers successful in receiving awards could be inspiring to others.

- o Some Faculties have committees or individuals focused on nominating members of their Faculty for awards.

- In response to a question, it was reported that the call for nominations is broadcast by email. Researchers are encouraged to nominate each other, and a researcher could reach out to the RSO for support in becoming nominated. Deans and Associate Deans Research are encouraged to identify candidates within their Faculties.

Secretary's note: Quorum was lost during this agenda item.

5.   Research and Innovation Plan Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. William Ghali, Vice-President (Research), and Lorna Very, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters gave a presentation on the achievements to date under the *Ahead of Tomorrow* Research and Innovation Plan, including data about internal, provincial, national and international research funding received, major transdisciplinary research initiatives, Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) successes, and the cultivation of industry and other partnerships. The presenters provided updates on work under the International Research and Innovation Unit, Strategic Initiatives and Research Intelligence Unit, and Institutes for Transdisciplinary Scholarship, and reported that priorities for the near future include additional academic staff member hires, developing a suite of undergraduate research engagement opportunities, and launching large-scale campus-wide grand challenge projects.

- Discussion included that collaborative research is a different model from the traditional Principal Investigator model, and challenges can include complexities with financial reporting and that work may be

occurring in multiple labs.

6. Annual Committee Performance Review

Secretary's note: This item was withdrawn due to lack of time. The Secretariat will invite any feedback from the Committee through email.

7. Innovation Ecosystem Update

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only. Ian Gates, Associate Vice-President (Research), presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenter gave a presentation on the University's innovation ecosystem, including describing the current and emerging innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Faculties, the Hunter Hub, and Innovate Calgary and highlighting the University's UCeed funding program.

- In response to a question, it was reported that Alberta has significant private venture capital funding, and connections are being made in this area.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Michelle Speta
Meeting Secretary