

Return to On-Campus Research Task Force

Terms of Reference

Preamble

The recent pandemic outbreak necessitated a sudden cessation of all non-COVID19 related research activities at Ontario Tech in response to government emergency orders and resulting public health directives. As those orders begin to ease, a coordinated return to on-campus research framework is required in order to ensure a safe return to research on the university's campuses amidst continued physical distancing and other health-related interventions.

Mandate

The mandate of the Return to On-Campus Research Task Force (Task Force) is to work collaboratively across all Faculties and support services to contribute to a framework for the coordinated and phased return to on-campus research at Ontario Tech University. This pan-university framework will serve as a guide for associated Faculty research action plans. The Task Force is a non-voting, advisory committee. It is not a decision-making body.

Accountability

The Task Force is an advisory body that provides information and advice to the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

Terms of Reference

The Task Force is tasked with the following:

- Identify assumptions and priorities as to what research activities may look like, based on adherence to continued emergency orders, current recommendations from Public Health, and University guidelines. These assumptions will be fluid as new information becomes available.
- Inform a general framework, protocols, action plans and guidelines to help Faculties (and relevant support services) develop their on-campus research expansion plans.
- Present findings and recommendations including information and assessments regarding the costs and benefits of different options, as required.
- Provide recommendations with regard to sequencing of activities (i.e., the order in which to expand research operations).

- Recommend an implementation timeline and associated actions that are necessary to gradually and safely return to pre pandemic research activities with risk mitigation to the highest degree possible.
- Seek coherence, coordination and consistency across all Faculty plans.
- Advise on approaches for collaboration with other Task Forces.

Membership

Members shall be appointed by Vice-President Research & Innovation.

The Task Force shall consist of:

- Vice-President Research and Innovation (Chair)
- Faculty Representatives (at least one per Faculty) selected in consultation with the Dean;
- University Librarian
- Biosafety and Radiation Safety Officer;
- Director, Risk Management;
- Director of Campus Infrastructure and Sustainability, or delegate;
- Executive Director, Research Services;
- Health and Safety Officer;
- Research Ethics Officer;
- One Representative from each of the following administrative units:
 - External Relations;
 - Procurement.

Structure

As an advisory Task Force, it shall seek to operate by consensus. When there is not consensus, the recommendation will note the differing opinions and rationale.

Due to the emergency nature of this committee, members shall not delegate someone else to attend meetings, as the history will be lost.

The Task Force will meet weekly until it deems a less frequent schedule to be appropriate.