

Research Board Minutes

Date: October 19, 2021
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: Google Meet
Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, C. Davidson, S. Downing, G. Edwards, S. Forrester (Vice-Chair), J. Freeman, L. Jacobs (Chair), M. Lemonde, L. Roy, R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, V. Sharpe (secretary)
Regrets: S. Rahnamayan

1. Welcome

S. Forrester noted that L. Jacobs would be joining shortly and he started the meeting.

2. Approval of the agenda

Approved by B. Chang. Seconded by R. Ruttenberg-Rozen.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Approved by M. Lemonde & L. Roy.

4. Report of the Vice President Research & Innovation

Research Excellence Chairs - L. Jacobs noted that a large number of applications have been received for the Research Excellence Chairs competition. We've designed them as folding chairs precisely so that people who apply now and aren't successful will have another opportunity in the coming years.

Aging with Dignity Research Centre – M. Lemonde has agreed to shepherd this idea into realization. He thanked M. Lemonde for stepping up and commented on her prestigious research portfolio. This will be discussed in more detail later in the agenda.

Brilliant Energy Institute – The idea of the BEI is to be the umbrella to help to coordinate other energy initiatives and energy faculty with a goal of turning this into a competitive advantage. At a future meeting we can have a discussion about student fellowships within the BEI. There will be news soon about the Executive Director position.

5. Report of the Executive Director, Office of Research Services

J. Freeman provided and circulated a presentation that included information on/about:

- COVID 19 update: Return to On-Campus Research Task Force met recently and is putting forward to the VPRI the request to remove research capacities for on-campus research labs and changes to updating the procedures for approvals.
Recommendation to change the process – labs that have already been approved will continue to operate as they are and no longer be required to come back to the FORCS to modify and add personnel. Those that have not been approved previously should still apply to their FORCs for consultation and to get approval of SOPs, etc. and that they communicate with their students etc. about health and safety in the labs.
Still requiring approval are the human participant research or labs that involve biosafety/radiation safety; the process is still to seek approval of FORC and Dean.
- L. Roy asked about outbound scholars. J. Freeman said questions should be directed to Jackie Dupuis. Some outbound scholarly research is happening depending on the risk factors of the visiting country. J. Freeman offered to ask J. Dupuis to speak to this at the November Research Board meeting or create a communication about this and circulate to the Board.

- ORS Hiring – several vacancies in process of being filled. J. Freeman noted that process has changed with REB reviews in that the Research Ethics Officer and Research Ethics Coordinator can provide some reviews. There is still a need for faculty to serve on the REB as this is a peer-review process. Currently recruiting for a Chair and Vice-Chair. B. Chang noted delays in turnaround time of NDAs. J. Freeman noted that many NDAs have to be seen by Legal Counsel, and have increased complexities, so sometimes there is a delay although some NDAs are being turned around in days or weeks.
- NSERC Alliance Grants Program – new National Security Guidelines – already implemented by NSERC.
- Large Institutional Grants (CREC, CFREF, CFI Innovation Fund, CFI Major Science Initiatives) – Usually one per institution allowed to be submitted. We will be submitting one project from ACE for the CFI Major Science Initiatives and a project from Science for the CFI Innovation Fund. S. Forrester asked about calls in future for CRCs. J. Freeman replied that there may be vacancies for two Tier 2s in 2022 and the university is hoping to change them into one Tier 1 that will most likely be NSERC focused.
- Animal Care and Research Ethics – Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) site visit next week.
- Undergraduate Research – J. Freeman reviewed the timeline.

6. Undergraduate Research Awards Funding

J. Freeman noted that as discussed at the previous Research Board meeting, ORS is about to launch the USRAs soon for next year. It is experiential learning paid out as an award. STAR Award paid out by VPRI with a top-up from faculty member. NSERC gives \$6000 per USRA award and faculty member required to top up. Need to ensure that the students are compensated equitable amounts for doing the same or similar work and trying to make the funding to at least meet minimum wage to be competitive. ORS did a sector analysis. NSERC requirements do not allow for funding international students but STAR Awards do.

Proposal:

Proposed

# of Weeks	ORS Contribution	Dean Contribution	Supervisor contribution	Total award
12	\$ 4,500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000 mandatory	\$ 6,000
16	\$ 4,500	\$ 500	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,000

NSERC USRA Supervisor Contribution Framework

Year	NSERC contribution	Supervisor contribution	Total award
2018	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 6,000
2019	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 6,500
2020	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 7,000
2021	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 7,500
2022	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 8,000

*2021 - NSERC increased contribution due to COVID-19; Ontario Tech reduced required contribution

S. Forrester noted he would like this consultation process to continue in the future. He noted that Science agrees with the top up for NSERCs and he will consult with his faculty regarding STAR Award top up increase. L. Roy noted that research assistantships are not exclusive. Students can have other part-time summer jobs and he suggested that there may be push back from faculty if the award contributions go up to \$3000. The board recommended to change the proposed \$3000 supervisor contribution for the 16 week STAR awards to \$2000 so it is inline with NSERC Supervisor contribution. **ACTION:** J. Freeman to send communication to Deans to seek feedback within a week (deadline Oct 26) so ORS can launch the program next week. V. Sharpe to send reminder as one week deadline looms.

7. Annual Reports from Research Entities

Centre for Small Modular Reactors – deferred. K. Atkinson provided a brief verbal report. The research entity was approved in 2020 and has been promoted at various international meetings and outings. During 2020-2021 they worked on putting together new proposals and contracts with industry (CANDU Owners Group, Kinetrics) and have future projects lined up with X-Energy. He noted that he has procured phase one of a

dedicated facility and is still trying to get the sub-critical assembly from Montreal as it could make us a real leader in the industry.

8. Aging Research & Best Practices Centre (*name to be determined*)

L. Jacobs noted that he and M. Lemonde plan to bring a proposal forward at the next Research Board meeting. Only 9 Faculty Members have submitted an Expression of Interest form regarding Research Clusters related to the Aging Research & Best Practices Centre. **ACTION:** Research Board members are asked to encourage their faculty to submit EOIs regarding Research Clusters.

9. Working Groups on Research Priorities

Data Management Strategy
Research Metrics Dashboard
Institutes and Centres
Canada Research Chairs Program Policy Review

All deferred.

ACTION: V. Sharpe to confirm member interest in the groups and provide statement of focus of the group.

10. Faculty Exchange

Deferred.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Next meeting – November 16, 2021

13. Adjournment – 1:56 p.m.