

Research Board Minutes

Date: November 16, 2021
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: Google Meets
Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, C. Davidson, S. Downing, G. Edwards, S. Forrester (Vice-Chair), J. Freeman, L. Jacobs (Chair), M. Lemonde, S. Rahnamayan, L. Roy, R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, V. Sharpe (secretary)

Regrets:

1. Welcome

L. Jacobs welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting.

2. Approval of the agenda

Approved by consensus.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Approved by M. Lemonde & R. Ruttenberg-Rozen.

4. Report of the Vice President Research & Innovation

L. Jacobs noted that there has been a lot of activity lately including:

Progress on the Brilliant Energy Institute (BEI) – Jacquie Hoornweg has been hired as the new Executive Director. Jacquie worked at OPG for many years and has had a long relationship with Ontario Tech. He noted that there was a large donation announcement in support of the BEI and a banner went up on the ERC naming the Brilliant Energy Institute Nicholas Sion Laboratories.

Canadian Global Affairs Institute – There will be an announcement coming soon about a partnership between Ontario Tech and the Canadian Global Affairs institute which is a top tier think tank. Their Energy Security Forum (major initiative) will be headquartered at Ontario Tech in the BEI. Our university will be their anchor for the GTA. They currently have headquarters in Ottawa and Calgary. They have approximately 200 research fellows.

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

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

- ORS Hiring – Research Contracts Officer (Aleli Bernardino) hired and in place. Still in process of hiring Manager, Research Partnerships, Research Business Analyst, Grants Officer (limited term) and Partnerships Officer (limited term, Teaching City, etc.).
- Snapshot of numbers of fall grant applications for major programs.
- SSHRC Institutional Grant.
- Employment Systems Review – onto 3rd component (survey conducted to investigate if there are any barriers in employment systems at Ontario Tech, Nov 16-Dec 10). J. Freeman encouraged everyone to complete the survey.
- REB – working on backlog. There is a shortage of reviewers. Student applications and applications with funding implications are being prioritized.

- Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) audit took place on Oct 26 and the assessment report is expected within 10 weeks.

6. Age With Dignity Campus of Care and Best Practices Research Centre proposal L. Jacobs noted that a lot of work has gone into the proposal for discussion today. The idea for the proposal came from a variety of discussions including Town Halls he led. There was a great deal of support for the creation of this centre. M. Lemonde discussed how the centre is unique and that there are opportunities for researchers in all faculties to be involved.

S. Rahnamayan asked about the process to create this centre. M. Lemonde noted that there had been Town Hall meetings, then the creation of the centre was announced, and all faculty (TTT and TF) were invited to submit expressions of interest to be used to create research clusters, and then there was an announcement of accepting applications for the Research Director position, then the announcement of the selected Research Director. She noted that there is still time for faculty to get involved.

L. Roy questioned the effectiveness of such a long title and noted that the proposal was very vague and suggested research pillars or foci be included.

K. Atkinson suggested the proposal could define three challenge problems.

G. Edwards commented on the budget document where it noted that the centre won't spend money until they receive revenue but the budget document shows the centre will have costs to cover.

L. Jacobs suggested that M. Lemonde include in the proposal the town halls, consultations, etc. He acknowledged L. Roy's suggestion about a few pillars of research focus, and suggested including them as well as including long term goals of the centre, acknowledging the diverse research interests of participants, and suggested revisiting the budget to make sure it is aligned with the proposal noting that the budget and revenue will be built over time.

J. Freeman noted that the budget is meant to be thought of as a plan of how the centre will grow.

7. New Research Titles: Associate Scientist and Senior Scientist. L. Jacobs noted that it is common practice at other universities to have titles such as these and it makes sense to have it here as well. He noted that there are many individuals currently for whom this designation makes sense.

K. Atkinson asked how these titles differ from adjunct status and what happens if a research entity wanted to hire someone who was a postdoc, working, but not faculty – what their title would be.

L. Jacobs responded that one could use the titles of Research Associate or Senior Scientist. He noted that these titles are not for paid positions.

It was noted that sometimes there can be a continuity issue. For example, a post doc term concludes but the post doc continues to be involved in the research project. A Senior Scientist title would give them honorary status at the university.

L. Jacobs noted that it would be the Dean's discretion on adjunct status but those are rarely tied to research. A Senior Scientist designation suggests a research link. He noted that another factor arising in general is that we keep exponentially including industry partners in research programs (approaching 600 now) which is a doubling in recent years. Industry partners have individuals involved in research activities.

S. Forrester questioned how individuals would be nominated for these titles. L. Roy noted that the adjunct process is robust. S. Rahnamayan questioned the timing of the term of 5 years; adjunct terms are 3 years (and he suggests they should be longer). He noted the need for consistency with regard to titles.

L. Roy noted that titles of Associate Scientist and Senior Scientist are paid positions in government and suggested titles of Adjunct Scientist and Adjunct Senior Scientist, or Adjunct Research Professor, as it is widely known that these are not paid positions.

L. Jacobs agreed that using the term adjunct shows that they are unpaid, honourific appointments but disagrees with the use of Adjunct Research Professor because these are people who don't have professorships elsewhere and he provided an example from ACE.

S. Rahnamayan suggested we look at other universities to see what they are doing and noted the sensitivity around calling them scientists because scientists are paid positions. B. Chang agreed that we should learn from other universities.

L. Jacobs suggested formulating an adjudication process where the VPRI would propose candidates for the designation and the Research Board approves them. **ACTION:** L. Jacobs will work on titles and bring it back to a future Research Board meeting.

8. Outbound Scholars and Risk. J. Freeman followed up with the Director, Risk Management and the Manager, International (after the announcement of government restrictions on travel) and they informed her that most countries have moved away from avoiding non-essential travel. Ontario Tech can provide approval for travel. It was suggested that faculty and staff become familiar with the high-risk travel policy for themselves and their students. If people are wishing to travel related to teaching or research they should contact J. Dupuis with questions and work together to complete a risk assessment. J. Freeman noted that we don't have any outbound students at this time (on hold) and these programs will be considered for Spring 2022. For inbound scholars, we need to follow the visiting scholars process and follow country entry rules (such as vaccinations, Covid testing, quarantine, etc.).

9. Faculty Exchange

Health Science – lots of grants submitted by Nov 1 deadline.

Education – no update.

FESNS – governance structure change in faculty due to Dean stepping down. Many nations now backing Small Modular Reactors (SMR). A lot of energy behind the activities. The Centre for Small Modular Reactors (CSMR) fits under the Brilliant Energy Institute (BEI).

FBIT – no update.

FSSH – reviewing our CRC Tier II candidates. Social Justice focus.

FEAS – Winter classes will be online. Call for Nov 24 meeting re: international students' tuition fees. Hoping to make our tuition fees lower to make our university more attractive to international students.

Sci – no update.

SGPS – Regarding tuition for international students – if you can't attend information session please send comments by email. Yesterday's meeting – around BEI there is a sponsored funding envelope there to have graduate students getting funding as fellows, etc. Coming soon – an announcement made on the Graduate Awards of Excellence - looking to do a fireside chat/ceremony – attend in person and livestream it – in December.

Library – watch the space around research data mgmt. **ACTION:** add to a future agenda.

10. Other Business

None.

11. Next meeting – January 18, 2022

12. Adjournment – 1:58 p.m.