



Research Board Minutes

Date: April 19, 2022
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Place: Google Meet
Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, C. Davidson, S. Forrester (Vice-Chair), J. Freeman,
L. Jacobs (Chair), M. Lemonde, B. Murphy, V. Sharpe (secretary)
Guest(s):
Regrets: S. Brown, S. Downing, S. Rahnamayan, R. Ruttenberg-Rozen

L. Jacobs welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting.

1. Approval of the agenda

Moved by M. Lemonde. Seconded by B. Murphy. Approved by consensus.

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Approved by M. Lemonde. Seconded by B. Murphy. Approved by consensus.

3. Report of the Vice President Research & Innovation

L. Jacobs noted that as it is the end of term it is very busy for faculty. He noted that the CFREF application has been submitted and efforts were herculean during the last few days before submission. It is a genuinely interdisciplinary application. He noted a significant development of the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) joined as a junior partner and with a lot of enthusiasm. We have 42 industry partners, contributing about \$15 million total. L. Jacobs' noted his opinion that we need to have significant success on these major applications which includes major U15 universities joining us as junior applicants. The final count is 73 researchers involved in the application. UofT has 17-18 mostly from UTSC in environmental science and clean energy. L. Jacobs noted that Ontario Tech is one of the junior applicants on the Wilfrid Laurier University application focused on education for the future and on the University of Windsor application as part of a consortium on electric vehicles. B. Chang asked if the university is successful in moving to the second stage can other researchers join the application? L. Jacobs confirmed that they can.

L. Jacobs noted that Ontario Tech picked an area where no other university was putting in an application. Other universities' application areas include: UofT – Advanced Manufacturing; York – AI; McMaster and Queens – Health Sciences; Western – Psychology and Brain Development; Waterloo – Long-Term Care.

L. Jacobs noted that there have been questions about research activity on campus and mask/vaccine mandates. He stated that with the mask mandates still in place we are treating it that we are still not in stage 5 so status quo for research activity. S. Forrester asked if the status quo is in place until the university changes its policy on the mask mandate. L. Jacobs confirmed that yes, we are continuing mask mandate and doing periodic reviews. There is a respect for social distancing but it is no longer a Durham Public Health requirement.

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

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

- Grants & Funding Programs - S. Forrester asked about the Discovery Grant 50% success rate. J. Freeman noted we've been trending 40-60% success rate and that it is harder to be awarded a Discovery Grant now than it used to be. She has observed that new applicants were not as likely to get a Discovery Grant. L. Jacobs noted that at the NSERC Leaders Discussion they noted that the success rates for people applying to renew have remained quite high (and quite high compared to other funding agencies) so it's harder for new people to get on the track. Once they are successful the success rate is quite a bit above 50%. Some universities are achieving 80% success rate for renewals.

S. Forrester asked if researchers that have had NSERC funding but lost it are struggling to get NSERC funding back. J. Freeman confirmed this is the unfortunately the case.

B. Murphy noted that there was a time years ago when she served on NSERC adjudication committees that early career researchers were ranked as strong but really they were moderate. It would be good to find ways to get junior faculty in supervisory capacities or develop mentoring opportunities. She noted that there is no prejudice against faculty who've lost their NSERC and that it is essential for researchers to have a publication record.

- Canada First Research Excellence (CFREF) program
 - LOI deadline April 5, 2022 - submitted
 - Full application deadline August 31, 2022 (by invitation only)
 - Total CFREF Ask: \$60,000,000 (\$45,000,000 for direct costs, \$15,000,000 for indirect costs)
- Radiation Safety – The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) performed an inspection in November 2021 and noted one area of improvement. In March 2022 the CNSC noted that the non-compliance has been addressed.
- Intellectual Property – 2021 has seen highest number of student-led start-ups and the highest number of invention disclosures since 2013. Entrepreneurial activity by faculty and students is trending upwards. Patent Assessment Committee set to launch in May/June 2022 to review patents and determine which ones we should continue to support and which we should abandon. At the end of April 2022 universities are required to post their Commercialization Statements. J. Freeman provided a draft of the Guiding Principles and the IP Commercialization Roadmap.

5. Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) posting

L. Jacobs noted the university job posting ad is now live as of late last week inviting interested researchers from around the world to apply. Some target areas have been identified. These positions are intended for exceptionally strong candidates. There are Indigenous considerations, EDI, and they can't be used to cherry pick Canadian researchers at other Canadian institutions. We're looking for international scholars or to repatriate Canadians. **ACTION:** J. Freeman will circulate the link to the job posting.

L. Jacobs noted that the first step is posting the ad with 4-5 different thematic areas. The applications will be made to the VP, Research and Innovation (VPRI), then a committee of Deans, the Provost and the VPRI will convene to determine the deepest applicant pool and direction for moving forward. This will then funnel into the Collective Agreement process. We will have to have a candidate identified in September and an application in in October.

6. Research Data Management

C. Davidson and J. Freeman provided a presentation on Research Data Management and the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy.

B. Murphy noted that the standard timeline to keep data is 7 years and suggested the creation of REB-compliant templates by discipline.

C. Davidson noted her interest in presenting about preservation to the Research Board and that she welcomes other data from researchers to enter in the repository. The Library is offering online workshops. She further noted that the RDM committee will focus on the Institutional strategy due in 2025 and that they are looking to identify additional committee members.

7. **Faculty Exchange**

Deferred due to lack of time.

8. **Other Business**

None.

9. **Next meetings** – May 24, 2022 (rescheduled to June 17, 2022)

10. **Adjournment** – 1:59 p.m.