



Research Committee Minutes

Date: June 18, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Place: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Les Jacobs	Peter Lewis	Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen
Catherine Davidson	Amanda Goddard	Nick Wattie
Jennifer Freeman	Amy Leach	

Guests:

Pejman Mirza-Babaei (Joe Stokes
Delegate)

Regrets:

Joe Stokes	Sean Forrester
Susanne Brown	Shahram ShahbazPanahi

1. **Welcome**
2. **Land Acknowledgements**
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
Move: A. Leach
Second: P. Lewis
The agenda was approved as presented.
4. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes**
Move: N. Wattie
Second: P. Lewis
Minutes approved as presented.
5. **Business arising from the minutes**
No items for discussion
6. **Report of the Vice-President Research & Innovation.**

L. Jacobs provided a comprehensive report:

- **Research Awards:** Final selections for Research Excellence Chairs and Research Excellence Awards are complete. Results will be communicated once notifications are made. The quality and depth of applicants were noted.
- **Institutional Metrics:** Sustained internal research chair programming is now built into the Institutional Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) and the Academic Research Plan.
- **Mitacs Funding:** Previous year's cap on Mitacs awards negatively impacted industry engagement and research sponsorships. The cap has since been lifted and a strong year ahead is anticipated.
- **NSERC Discovery Grants:** The institution is expecting a record number of applications due to post-COVID grant extensions.
- **Strategic Planning:** Les is attending a strategic session with Mitacs and the University of Toronto. Promising initiatives are emerging.
- **Advancement:** There have been positive developments supporting the research enterprise. ORS staff are managing multiple responsibilities; J. Freeman was acknowledged for stepping in as Acting Executive Director of ACE.

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

- **Staffing:** Ewa Stewart is on maternity leave, replaced by Amber Zabaleta. New Research Legal Counsel. Danielle Saney has returned but will go on another maternity leave in September; Julia Armstrong will continue as interim manager.
- **Research Security:** RCMP and GAC are presenting on sanctions and their relevance to institutional research. Increased attention is being paid to due diligence and foreign talent programs.
- **Funding Trends:** Slight downturn in funding attributed to the Mitacs cap and delays in award finalizations. Variations noted in federal and provincial funding. Faculties show both upward and downward trends.
- **Medical Delegated Acts:** A draft SOP is under review by REB. Three models were outlined: (1) direct performance by a regulated professional; (2) delegation through university affiliation; (3) outsourcing as a paid service.
- **CRC Institutional Contributions:** A revised institutional contribution model has been introduced for CRC Tier 1 and Tier 2 chairs. Administrative fees have increased, with additional flexibility for how stipends are allocated.

8. Faculty Roundtable

- Graduate Studies: Representative (Pejman Mirza-Babaei) from SGPS joined in place of Joe Stokes; no additional updates shared.
- Nick Wattie (FHS): Raised concerns about advancement-led initiatives bypassing committee oversight. Requested guidelines to ensure Research Committee involvement in establishing new centers and institutes.
- Les Jacobs: Responded with historical examples and acknowledged the need for a guideline similar to the research chair process. Noted that not all initiatives fall under the committee's purview, especially naming rights and gifts, but emphasized the importance of academic consultation where relevant.
- Peter Lewis (FBIT): Supported Nick's suggestion. Emphasized importance of Research Committee maintaining oversight, particularly to prevent duplicative or exclusive centers that don't represent the broader university community.

- Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen (FE): Shared concerns about the lack of regulation in newly established centers, particularly in Education. Emphasized that Deans have little control once structures are established without oversight.
- Amy Leach (FSSH): Provided updates on the Mindful AI Research Institute, noting successful collaboration with Advancement and an upcoming formal launch. Reported that the new PhD in cybersecurity has met enrollment targets.
- Catherine Davidson (Library): Planning more structured engagement with faculties on graduate and research support. Expressed interest in the Mindful AI initiative.
- Amy Leach (FSSH): Noted strong success in SSHRC Insight Development applications. Inquired about CRC application timelines. Les confirmed plans to initiate next rounds over summer.

9. Other Business

No additional business to discuss

10. Upcoming meetings

September 25 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

October 22 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

November 27 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

January 29, 2026, 11:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

February 26 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

March 26 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

April 23 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May 28 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

June 25 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Moved: A. Leach | Seconded: N. Wattie

Adjournment at 2:11 p.m.