



## Research Committee

### Minutes

Date: January 29, 2026  
Time: 11 AM to noon  
Place: Microsoft Teams

#### Attendees:

Les Jacobs	Pejman Mirza-Babaei	Peter Lewis
Andrea Kirkwood	Jennifer Freeman	Catherine Davidson
Tarlochan Sidhu	Amy Leach	Amanda Goddard
Susanne Brown	Nick Wattie	

#### Guests:

Christopher O-Connor

#### Regrets:

Joelle Rodway

- Welcome**
- Land Acknowledgements**  
Land Acknowledgement delivered by T. Sidhu.
- Approval of the Agenda**  
*The agenda was approved unanimously, with one amendment to add an item for updates from Jennifer Freeman.*
- Approval of previous meeting's minutes**  
*Minutes approved as presented, with a minor clarification to be made regarding attribution of benchmarking information related to course buyouts.*
- Business arising from the minutes**  
No items for discussion
- Report of the Vice-President Research & Innovation.**  
L. Jacobs provided an update on recent developments since the last meeting, with a particular focus on the launch of the Canada Research Impact Plus Program.

- **Research Updates**

- Ontario Tech's \$3M allocation for chair nominations, supporting between three and six potential nominations depending on chair level.
- The decision to pursue targeted priority areas rather than open calls, informed by Dean and Associate Dean input, federal program constraints, and areas of demonstrated institutional strength.
- Emphasis on competitiveness against U15 institutions and positioning Ontario Tech with a strong value proposition.
- Overview of additional program components, including Emerging Leader nominations, training awards (two postdoctoral and two doctoral positions), and a significant associated CFI infrastructure envelope.
- Also noted that nomination timelines are extremely compressed and that nominations will be pursued selectively where strong candidates are identified.

7. **SSHRC Leaders update**

Presented by A. Leach update from the SSHRC Leaders meeting held in November.

Key points included:

- Budget updates indicating a 2% compression rather than the previously anticipated 15%, with expectations that funding levels will stabilize due to increases in prior budgets.
- Anticipated significant future investments related to the attraction of international research talent.
- A recent Parliamentary request for detailed applicant, reviewer, and funding decision data, which was successfully limited to de-identified, aggregate data following advocacy by the tri-agencies.
- Concerns regarding low application rates from SSHRC disciplines to the New Frontiers in Research Fund and encouragement for increased participation.
- Ongoing concerns about declining numbers of French-language applications.
- Discussion of enhanced support mechanisms for small and medium-sized institutions.
- Upcoming implementation of a new Tri-Agency Open Access policy requiring researchers to retain rights and deposit publications in institutional repositories under an open license.
- Movement toward a narrative CV model across the tri-agencies, intended to be more inclusive but raising concerns regarding increased workload and interpretation. Implementation will be phased with continued consultation.

8. **Report of the Executive Director, Office of Research Services**

Presented by J. Freeman:

- Provided an update on proposed changes to the university's research administration and data infrastructure. As part of a broader institutional data strategy, the Office of Research Services is reviewing replacement options for the current Romeo/IRIS system.
- Limitations of the existing system related to accessibility, integration, and workflow efficiency.
- Outcomes of a national procurement process that identified Endpoint IQ and Worktribe as preferred alternatives.

- Current efforts to socialize the systems internally, including sandbox demonstrations and budget planning.
- A request for guidance on how best to engage faculty users meaningfully in the selection and implementation process.
- Accessibility was emphasized as a core requirement. Materials will be circulated to committee members for feedback.

9. **Proposed Research Centre:**

Centre for Police Science (COPS)

- Christopher O’Connor presented a proposal for a new research entity, the Centre for Police Science (COPS). The proposed centre aims to advance policing as a science through evidence-based research, data, and technology, and to strengthen partnerships with police services and police-adjacent organizations.
- Discussion focused on the breadth of interdisciplinary involvement, potential funding opportunities, and governance considerations. Members noted that committee consideration relates to advancing the proposal to Academic Council, not budget approval.
- Due to some members not yet having reviewed all materials, it was agreed that documents would be circulated and an email-based consensus check conducted prior to forwarding the proposal to Academic Council.

10. **Faculty Roundtable**

Deferred

11. **Upcoming meetings**

February 26	3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	May 28	3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
March 26	3 p.m. – 4 p.m.	June 25	3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
April 23	3 p.m. – 4 p.m.		

12. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Unanimous

Adjournment at 12:05 p.m.