

Research Board Minutes

Date: November 28, 2018

Time: 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Place: ERC 3023

Attendees: P. Cote, B. Easton, G. Edwards, J. Freeman, D. Holdway, S. Karray, H. Kishawy, A. Mamolo (phone), V. Sharpe (Secretary), A. Slane (phone)

Regrets: C. Davidson, M. Piro, L. Roy

1. **Approval of the agenda**

Motion to approve by H. Kishawy. Seconded by B. Easton.

2. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

Motion to approve by H. Kishawy. Seconded by S. Karray.

3. **Report of the Vice President Research & Innovation**

AVIN - D. Holdway reported that the agreement has been signed with the Spark Centre. There is about \$2 million to be spent by March 2019. He noted that money for administrative support of the program will be going to Spark Centre and not UOIT as the government decided that the funding for the UOIT project will be funnelled through Spark.

J. Freeman joined the meeting at this time.

Ontario Council of University Vice-Presidents Research (OCUR) – Doug attended a recent meeting in Ottawa where all the heads of the Funding Agencies and ADM attended. NSERC Partnership Program will provide an update within a week or so. Exciting changes for matching funds where the funds necessary from not-for-profits and industry have been lowered. NSERC is welcoming feedback and incorporating it. The program information will be launched in the new year. It looks like going forward the IP will revert to the institution's IP policy.

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

J. Freeman provided a presentation that included information on:

- the USRAs – allocation to the faculties is based on the NSERC funding; students can only be allocated to an NSERC grant holder and the grant holder must top up the funds; and faculties conduct the selection of the students;. Jenn noted that although we top up the amount given by NSERC, we are below some other universities, and there is some difficulty fulfilling all USRAs. B. Easton suggested that a waitlist be created. J. Freeman noted that ORS does do this by ranking the projects. S. Karray noted that for faculties without a CRC, the funding allocation to the faculty is lower/disadvantaged. B. Easton suggested an alternate allocation strategy such as faculty ranked and then pooled centrally (faculty member who is on the OGS evaluation committee). Information sessions have already been held at the north campus and downtown.

J. Freeman noted that UOIT is looking to implement an increase in faculty contributions over a three year period. S. Karray inquired as to whether STAR awards could be divided into two (two 8 week periods rather than one 16 week period). J. Freeman noted that we have done this in the past and it can be looked at for this year. D. Holdway noted that he would like to see the minimum brought up to \$6500 this year (\$500 increase) and encourage faculty to pay minimum wage. The board was in agreement. J. Freeman asked for feedback on how extra student awards are handled.

- Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) Consultation – More iterations are expected.
- Research Ethics Board Task Force – hiring is in process for a Research Ethics Assistant. Board is still dealing with a significant backlog from the summer. They are looking for efficiencies and implementing changes to improve process efficiency. The policies and procedures are being reviewed and revised. Some clarity is needed for clinical trials and clinical research.
- Partnerships & Grants Fall 2018 – J. Freeman provided an informative presentation that included information about:

Completed Grants

- 32 NSERC Discovery Grants
- 15 NSERC Research Tools and Instrument
- 14 SSHRC Insight Grants
- 1 CIHR - Collaborative Health Research Projects
- 1 SSHRC Connection Grant
- 1 SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant (Awarded)
- 3 Office of the Privacy Commissioner

Internal Competitions

- CFI JELF – ORS received 12 applications for the internal JELF competition, the committee will meet in early December
- CFI Innovation Fund – Internal competition to launch by end of November 2018
- Research Excellence Award – selection committee meeting took place November 23rd; seven nominations (3 early career, 4 senior); the committee chose one awardee in each category
- NSERC/UNENE Industrial Research Chair (IRC) – site visit for Senior Chair occurred in October, anticipate submitting the application for a new Associate Chair early in 2019

Futures Forum

- Committee Members: Lindsay Coolidge; Yvonne Stefanin; Amy Neil; Samantha Cook; Alison Burgess; FBIT – Patrick Hung; FSSH – Andrea Slane; FESNS – Hossam Gaber; FED – Roland Van Oostveen; FSC – Christopher Collins; FEAS – Khalid Elgazzar; FHS – Wally Bartfay
- Selected Topic: “The Human-Technology Interface”
- Date: May 2, 2019
- Venue: currently both 61 Charles St. and ERC atrium are under consideration
- Next Steps:
 - Decide format of day (panel vs. breakout sessions)
 - Choose 3 themes
 - Choose keynote and panel
 - Start gathering evite list

- S. Karray noted that she got a great brochure from Shulich and would like to see something like that for UOIT Research. J. Freeman noted that we would like to create promotional materials but there is a lack of funding.

D. Holdway noted that the new VPRI will be working on a new Strategic Research Plan and there will be a publication created once it is complete.

5. Business Arising

D. Holdway requested that Business Arising be moved to after the previous meeting's minutes in the agenda.

6. New Business

a. Research Ethics Policy

As discussed in J. Freeman's report.

b. New FAST interface "Research Dashboard"

G. Edwards noted that RTA is working to make FAST better. Improvements are being looked at to see if a dashboard can be created to make it easier for the researchers. Some researchers have been piloting the new dashboard. The company that owns Banner isn't keen to make customizations. G. Edwards is looking for feedback. Researchers noted this view is very valuable.

B. Easton asked what the plan is for the next round of testing. G. Edwards noted that anyone who would like to receive a manual version (what they are currently piloting) can request it. RTA is hoping to have something out in February.

7. Other Business/Faculty Exchange

a. Roundtable on issues that impact research in Faculties

i. Discussion on research metrics – deferred until the new Strategic Plan is in process.

ii. Research External Review Report – B. Easton noted a few interesting points: 1) How much pre- and post award support was lambasted by the external reviewers – "often great confusion among....." and 2) Critical of the Research Board – "branch of AC was not effective". B. Easton proposed that the Research Board invite the different departments (OCIS, Facilities, IT) to attend the RB and do a SWOT analysis (how do you support research, what problems do you encounter, etc.). H. Kishawy agreed with taking a pro-active role to improve processes but questioned our authority to make improvements.

H. Kishawy noted that there are issues that need to be resolved and there are questions about what we can do. He gave the example of the Space Committee not having a research representative on it and suggested that the VPRI should be on the space committee. There was unanimous support to have on-campus partners attend the RB. J. Freeman noted that the importance of Faculties and Deans and their role in supporting research. **ACTION:** A framework for these campus partner visits to be developed and presented for discussion at a future meeting.

8. **Next meeting** – ~~January 16, 2019, 2:30 pm, ERC 3023~~ rescheduled to February 27, 2019 at 2:30 pm, DTB 524

9. **Adjournment** – 4:08pm.