



Research Board Minutes

Date: November 7, 2019
Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Place: ERC 1058
Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, C. Davidson, S. Downing (for A. Slane), S. Forrester, J. Freeman, L. Jacobs (Chair), H. Kishawy, M. Lemonde, R. Van Oostveen (for J. Li, by phone), V. Sharpe (secretary),
Guest(s): I. Pedersen, P. Stoett, A. Tokuhira
Regrets: G. Edwards, L. Roy

1. Approval of the agenda

Approved by consensus.

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Approved by consensus.

3. Report of the Vice President Research & Innovation

L. Jacobs discussed the Strategic Research Plan.

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

J. Freeman provided a presentation (attached) that included information on:

- Hiring:
 - Yvonne Mais, Project Coordinator (Started October 15, 2019)
 - Osman Hamid, Director, Creativity & Entrepreneurship (Started October 21, 2019)
 - Raluca Dubrowski, Grants Officer (*Start date pending RPO replacement*)
 - Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusive Engagement (in process)
 - Research Partnerships Officer (in process, candidate to start December 2019)
 - Articling Student (in process, candidate to start January 2020)
 - Grant Submissions in Fall 2019: 114.
 - Undergraduate Research Awards - 30 NSERC USRAs, 7 STAR awards, call for projects is October 18, applications open Nov 29-Jan 17, awards assigned in mid-March.
 - Research Ethics Board – new release of the Tri-Council Policy Statement, new REB submission tools, REB annual report in December 2019.
 - Overview of the Animal Care Committee and the Biosafety & Radiation Safety Committee.
 - Futures Forum – Wednesday May 20 – Topic: Energy.
- Action:** V. Sharpe to distribute J. Freeman's PowerPoint presentation.

5. Business Arising

A. Digital Life Institute Proposal (Guests: I. Pedersen, P. Stoett, A. Tokuhira)

Isabel Pedersen provided a presentation on the proposal for the Digital Life Institute.

Questions:

* Other types of funding? I. Pedersen: SSHRC Partnership Grants. We've been partners on them before but not successful in hosting a Partnership Grant. L. Jacobs noted that they require equal matching by industry in cash or kind.

* Research Excellence Grant (\$20 million)? We tried for it but haven't yet been successful.

* Ability to attract scholars to Ontario Tech? P. Stoett: Ability to act as a magnet for postdocs. We receive offers to network and collaborate but have a shortage of time.

* Potential formation of a journal? Unfortunately J. Hughes wasn't able to be here and she is a big part of this institute and interest in journals. Definitely interested in pursuing that in the future.

* Difficulty of getting graduate students? What will be put in place for graduate programs? I. Pedersen: Grad students from the University of Minnesota, Faculty of Education, etc. Students will get involved, work with professors, supervisors, and become part of the infrastructure.

* The proposal doesn't say much other than broad strokes re: online learning in adult education and increasing digitization in the workplace. A. Tokuhiko: there's a lot of training that's becoming digitized in the nuclear industry (compliance retraining) and is a requirement. H. Kishawy noted that it's in all Engineering fields. R. Van Oostveen noted that this goes beyond specific industry training as we move into the 4th industrial revolution. Changes due to increased digitization. I. Pederson noted that T. Mirlees is on the committee as well as Janette Hughes (Ed). Other faculty who want to join are welcome to do so.

* Professors not on the steering committee might be interested. How do you attract others to join? I. Pederson: other universities have a listserv. We are exploring avenues here where this could be advertised to encourage participation.

L. Jacobs thanked I. Pederson, P. Stoett and A. Tokuhiko for attending. They left the meeting at this time.

L. Jacobs noted the criteria for a Research Institute:

1 – Clearly identified goals and objectives that align with UOIT's Strategic Research Plan

2 – Permanence beyond collaboration on a single project

3 – Ability to attract scholars to UOIT (including post-doctoral fellows, visiting professors, and other scholars)

4 – Long-term sustainability and ability to attract external funding

5 – Quality of training for future researchers (including undergraduates, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows)

Unanimous agreement that the institute meets the criteria. **MOTION:** to recommend the creation of the Digital Life Institute to Academic Council. Approved

B. Presentation on the Library of the 21st Century

C. Davidson provided an overview presentation on the Library of the 21st Century.

ACTION: V. Sharpe will circulate the presentation.

C. Strategic Research Plan

Each of the three Working Groups reported on their progress. The Research Areas of Strength group has created a survey to be circulated to faculty to be completed in December. **ACTION:** Send feedback on the survey to J. Freeman within the week.

6. New Business

None.

7. Other Business/Faculty Exchange

None.

A. Roundtable on issues that impact research in Faculties

None.

8. Next meeting – ~~December 11, 2019, 11:00-12:30, ERC 4037~~ January 9, 2020, 2:30 – 4:00, ERC 1058

9. Adjournment – 1:45 pm.