



Research Board Minutes

Date: September 5, 2019

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Place: ERC 1058

Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, C. Davidson, G. Edwards, S. Forrester, J. Freeman, M. Lemonde, J. Li, V. Sharpe, A. Slane, H. Kishawy, L. Roy

Regrets: None

1. Welcome, the Role of the Board

L. Jacobs welcomed the members and everyone made introductions. He noted that there is an exciting year ahead especially as we revise the Strategic Research Plan. There are 9 meetings scheduled (one per month) although we may not use the time in December or May. He noted that A. Slane and H. Kishawy are returning members (both on the board last year) and H. Kishawy additionally served twice before. L. Jacobs talked about the importance of having a Vice-Chair and due to his past experience serving on the RB, has named H. Kishawy to be the Vice-Chair for this academic year. In this role he will fill in as Chair if the VPRI is not available and support the Research Board in other ways.

L. Jacobs reviewed the role of the Board:

- To advise and make recommendations to Academic Council on policies and programs that promote, support, and celebrate high-quality research, scholarly work and innovation and their dissemination.
- To bring forward issues from your colleagues for discussion and to bring back Research Board information and share it with your colleagues. This can be done through one-on-one discussions, email and sharing the Research Board material or as a standing item on your Faculty Council agenda.
- Collect information from your colleagues related to the work being undertaken regarding the Strategic Research Plan.

2. Approval of the agenda

Approved by consensus.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Approved by consensus.

4. Business Arising

None.

5. Report of the Vice President Research & Innovation

L. Jacobs reported that

- He is leading the revision of the SRP and the Provost and he are jointly leading the development of the Integrated Academic Plan. Faculties and other units in the universities will develop their priorities and relate them to the President's priorities. Templates will be developed for this brief plan. The integrated plan (short, actionable plans) will include the Research Plan.
- Ontario Tech had pursued being one of the institutions in the NSERC Pilot of the Dimensions Program. We were not selected but were offered the opportunity to join as an associate institution. This is a high priority for the current Federal government.
- He met with the current CEO of Mitacs, Alejandro Adem, the incoming NSERC President (October 1) about enhancing our Mitacs presence. In the past two months we've surpassed our funding for the previous year.
- There is an important development in the works with Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. They have expressed interest in becoming a teaching hospital for Ontario Tech. The incentives for them are significant research money for endowed chairs, research chairs, etc. This is a promising opportunity to bring in strong researchers and funding. There is strong commitment to pan-university ties.
- There are significant promising investments around computing capacity building such as SOSCIP, and new infrastructure for federal funding.
- IP Consultations are being held by the government and that the responses are that university research should be leveraged to develop economic growth and that university research should develop more IP.
- There's been a large investment in ACE and the Moving Ground Plane which is currently being installed.
- Brad Easton received one of the largest CFI grants in university history (\$400,000) and we are expecting matching funds from the provincial government.
- We've been conducting interviews this summer to appoint our first Director, Creativity and Entrepreneurship for Brilliant Catalyst.
- The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) is reacting to the provincial government and is hosting a summit at the end of the month with research and government policy at the centre of the discussion. All UOIT Senior Leadership Team members will be participating.
- An Energy Summit (Canada's Future Energy Mix) is being held, in conjunction with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, on Thursday September 12 at 61 Charles Street with free admission.
- The Purdue Pharma Lecture "Synthesis and Applications of Nucleic Acid Analogues" by Dr. Masad Damha of McGill University is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25 at 3:30pm in UA 2140.

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

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

- UOIT grant funding performance – increase of approximately \$4 million from 2018.
- VPRII Staffing – Biosafety & Radiation Safety Officer (Francis Arnaldo), Manager, Research Partnerships & Innovation (Aisha Greene), Research Partnerships Officer (Raluca Dubrowski) and Manager, Grants & Funding Programs (Laura Rendl) in place. Selection committees are at work to fill the positions of Project Coordinator, Grants Officer, Director, Creativity & Entrepreneurship and Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusive Engagement.
- Upcoming research opportunities and deadlines.
- The CRC Action Plan.

7. New Business

- a. Strategic Research Plan
 - i. Working Groups

L. Jacobs provided an overview on his vision for the Strategic Research Plan revision including the consultation process and timeline and the four title topics:

- Principles and Values
- Goals
- Research Strengths
- Strategic Research Priorities

Members of the Research Board were asked to serve on one of three working groups to develop a draft Strategic Research Plan.

ii. Scheduling

L. Jacobs asked the working groups to hold their first meeting before the next Research Board meeting (October 10) so that they can provide a brief report.

8. Other Business/Faculty Exchange

a. Roundtable on issues that impact research in Faculties

None.

9. Next meeting – October 10, 2019, 11:30 – 1:00, ERC 1058

10. Adjournment – 1:05 pm.