1. **Approval of the agenda**

   Approved by M. Lemonde. Seconded by A. Slane. Approved by consensus.

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


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

   L. Jacobs noted that:
   - We have received the NSERC results which are excellent. There seems to be an improvement over previous years. We saw awards for FSSH, FBIT, Sci, HS, FEAS, and FESNS. He congratulated those on the Research Board that were successful and noted that the biggest award went to HS.
   - Announcements around research support in the COVID context have been coming fast and furious. The Federal Government is preparing an inclusive strategy to cover their bases. NSERC made a decision to extend out funding for a year (to provide a bridge funding year). The President of CIHR said they’ll be announcing something similar today. Tri council is strongly urging universities to ensure to commit to funding graduate students across the summer and those two moves are significant steps toward providing the funding to pay for those. On the OCUR call yesterday they said they have a funding proposal before the treasury board asking for funding for any technical staff who provide support for CFI infrastructure. This is not necessarily a benefit to us. A major announcement is expected on Wednesday to extend graduate fellowships via tri council. L. Roy noted that on recent announcements it’s not clear whether international students are in or out. L. Jacobs replied that it’s not clear but noted that for some international students are definitely included. Some funding doesn’t cover Canadian students studying internationally. The announcements seem to favor domestic students. More details to follow. The government is trying to figure out a strategy to fund International students including designing some programs so International students can apply (including work employment programs).
   - More than 15% of TTT researchers have pivoted to adding Covid research to their research program. When the first Covid research call came in February only 2 faculty members responded to that call.
   - The SRP consultations have wrapped up and the intention is for the final version of the SRP to go to Academic Council.

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

   J. Freeman provided a presentation that included information on:
   - Tri agency funding. Coming in fast and furious. CRC results coming in June – 2 pending renewals. Other agency results to come. NSERC funding is up and our success rate is up. Last year’s total funding was $2,432,500 and this year it is $3,057,500.
   - We got our first NSERC in FSSH!
• RTI – real dry spell for years but this year we got three! The success in RTI is close to full value so this is a spectacular result. We will get feedback on those that weren’t successful and we’ll share those and work on them. L. Jacobs called out the ORS staff for their invaluable support to our researchers. He mentioned that the grants officers work 12 hour days in the fall to hit those targets. He noted his appreciation for all their hard work and J. Freeman for her leadership.

• USRA and STAR programs have launched. ORS is working with researchers and Deans and making modifications to support students working remotely. We will work within NSRERC requirements so faculty can have as many projects as possible.

• FAQs are continuing to be updated. If you know of anyone working on designing PPE please direct them to ORS.

• Access to labs & essential research – there is a process online.

• Working with Grad Studies to look for gap funding for researchers related to COVID. **ACTION:** if you know of people in need please send info to J. Freeman.

5. **Business Arising**

None.

6. **New Business**

A. **Institute for Cyber Security and Resilient Systems (ICSRS) Proposal**

• M. Bliemel noted that this is an excellent opportunity for FBIT and other faculty who are participating in this initiative. There are a lot of funding opportunities for cybersecurity and in the future. The funding opportunity right now is with an industry partner. The reason for having an institute is so we can partner with other institutes. We require a larger entity than a research lab in order for funding and partnerships to continue.

• K. El-Khatib thanked J. Freeman for assistance right up to the last minute last night. He presented a presentation on the Institute proposal and stressed that cybersecurity has never been more important. He noted that the Covid-19 situation has not slowed the cybersecurity attacks and in fact there has been a 500% increase.

• K. El-Khatib noted that CIBC is looking for a partner so this is a great opportunity.

• R. Kay noted that it seems like a great idea for obvious reasons and it seems unusual that we wouldn’t have it if we have this experience. He questioned if they’ve talked to B. Maclsaac about the budget as it is a tight budget climate. M. Bliemel noted that they are not asking for Ontario Tech budget and won’t be hiring anyone until they have the money from fundraising. He’s hoping that 6 months after the institute is approved they will be able to firm up some external funding. FBIT is willing to front marketing materials and the 2 course releases as well as use some staff to support it internally until they can afford to hire the Director and the AA.

• S. Rahnamayan stated that he thinks this is an important direction to go in and a great initiative. He questioned how this institute can help the university’s IT systems and noted attacks on Blackboard for FEAS and SCI recently. K. El-Khatib noted that the university has cybersecurity insurance which does partly include a cybersecurity company on retainer so it makes it complex. He explained the complexity of cyber insurance (who is covered by the insurance, who can work on issues, etc.).

• L. Roy noted his support of this research institute and suggested that in the section on the research mandate there be some added clarity. He noted the references to Internet of Things/Khalid El-Gazzar. K. El-Khatib noted that the list is not comprehensive and he will invite K. El-Gazzar and welcoming anyone who is interested in participating.

• L. Jacobs noted that regarding the mandate, it tends to be something one quotes in research funding opportunities, so having that language can be strategic in seizing funding.

• G. Edwards raised a question about oversight and governance and stressed their importance.

• S. Forrester noted his support and suggested that every proposal should have concrete goals within a timeline.

**ACTION:** Send your vote to V. Sharpe by email if you have to leave to go to a meeting.
B. On campus research start up

- L. Jacobs noted that this is a work in progress. He has been participating in an OCUR meeting once a week or more for the last 5-6 weeks. An attempt to have coordination among the universities so there’s not a first mover around research like there was in the closing down. There was a change in the ecosystem a month ago: The main drivers for shutting down research facilities came from research hospitals. The University of Toronto was the first to announce they were shutting down non-essential research. The research hospitals have returned to reopen their activities that are not Covid-related. In the broader issues of funding they’ve been the influential parties with tri-council about bridge funding, etc. There is a general framework with unanimous agreement, whatever happens with start up, it will be staggered. Institutions will have to identify the priority personnel that we want in the staggered approach. For us it makes sense to have faculty in first. Emergency order from the province was extended to May 6, a one week extension.

- There will be a transition period followed by a start up. One of the questions is how much of that transition can happen while the emergency order is in place, if any? The transition period will probably be between 2 and 4 weeks.

- There is significant concern on facilities’ side about cleaning of facilities before widespread faculty or graduate student physical presence in research facilities. Largely there are no cleaners in any of the buildings. Getting the cleaning staff in is an added complexity in the context of the emergency order. The proposed tiered approach is: 1) Faculty, technical staff, and post docs; 2) Graduate students; 3) Undergraduate students. Other pieces to consider include services such as Science Stores.

- There is broad agreement in the university regarding research start up that once there is a broad set of protocols we want the deans to manage their own faculty in terms of scheduling, etc.

- L. Roy raised a question regarding the staggered entries about how a determination will be made for graduate students caught in the middle who need priority access and suggested that the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Office of Research Services can help to determine which projects’ researchers could go in first.

- J. Freeman noted some concerns around sharing space and equipment when restarting research, if still physical distancing. She noted that a lot of the procedures will be driven by the government or Public Health. There are many questions about PPE, who will pay for it, how will we manage it, who will order it, etc.

- **ACTION:** Send feedback regarding on-campus research restart to L. Jacobs.

7. Other Business/Faculty Exchange

   A. Roundtable on issues that impact research in Faculties

   None.

8. Next meeting – September tbd.