

## Research Board Minutes

Date: February 6, 2020  
Time: 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Place: UB 1055  
Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, G. Edwards, S. Forrester, J. Freeman (phone), L. Jacobs (Chair),  
H. Kishawy, M. Lemonde, R. Kay (for J. Li), L. Roy, V. Sharpe (secretary), A. Slane (phone),  
Guest(s): None  
Regrets: C. Davidson, J. Li

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### 1. Approval of the agenda

Approved by consensus.

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

Approved by consensus. Discussion regarding previous minutes notes on the subject of large scale grants. Questions about what support is available for researchers. L. Jacobs noted that obtaining large-scale grants is an institutional goal with an eye on one submission per year and that ORS will provide support. Question about why we are pursuing these. L. Jacobs noted that it is for the funding but also to build research capacity. S. Forrester suggested that a list of supports for research be created for Faculty. L. Jacobs noted that we are working on creating a workshop style meeting, possibly during the May Research Board meeting, to have support units present on the services they provide to researchers (e.g. Grants team, Contract support, IT, etc.).

L. Roy noted that he is working with C. Davidson and J. Freeman to set up a workshop for graduate students, post-docs, etc. in the spring on the topic of Research Data Management.

L. Jacobs noted that Sharcnet will do a mini workshop here in September for graduate students and new faculty.

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

L. Jacobs noted that we are looking to increase funding from Sharcnet and SOSCIP.

The Strategic Research Plan (SRP) and Integrated Academic Plan (IAP) are working in tandem. The IAP is going through AC first (February 2020) and SRP (March 2020). It will be on the Research Board agenda next month (March). The SRP is still a work in progress.

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

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

- ORS hiring
  - Research Contracts Officer – interviews have been completed
  - Intellectual Property Officer – recently vacated
- Funding
- Upcoming funding deadlines and program announcements
- The Research Excellence Awards (REA)
  - J. Freeman reported on the status and noted that it has been under review and open for feedback. She proposed a three-tier model. The committee asked questions about decanal involvement in the nomination process (they were removed from nominating due to a perceived bias), how onerous the nomination process is (4 page nomination plus candidate's cv and, if necessary to make a decision, external referee letters), what other universities do

(it varies), if faculties have nomination committees (some do), and criteria (60% scholarly contribution, 20% HQP, 20% impact of research).

A suggestion was made to have the nominators blind to the REA committee so there wouldn't be any perceived influence (e.g. candidate nominated by a Dean).

The committee decided to keep the award running every year and have up to three awards per year: Emerging, Mid Career and Established with an award budget of \$3000 per year to be split between the number of awards handed out in any given year.

Emerging would be an Assistant Professor and Mid Career or Established would be an Associate Professor or Full Professor. There would be additional criteria that an established researcher would have to meet.

J. Freeman stated that ORS will soon draft a call for nominations and the awards will be decided in the 2020-2021 academic year, noting a change that Deans too can nominate but the nominators will be hidden from the review committee.

S. Forrester noted that Science has a Research Award committee and he will share the Terms of Reference with the Research Board if other faculties are interested in setting up a similar awards committee.

- Undergraduate Research Awards – the number of awards distributed is based on levels of NSERC funding. ORS manages the program but individual Faculties determines the awards. ORS sets the criteria so projects are ranked the same way but the process could be different between Faculties. J. Freeman noted that outside of the 27 USRA allocation there are additional opportunity for self-identified indigenous students.
- New Frontiers Program – J. Freeman will circulate information.
- Compliance Committees
- Research Partnerships & Funding
  - Region of Durham
  - TeachingCity Oshawa
  - Futures Forum

## 5. **Business Arising**

None.

## 6. Strategic Research Plan (SRP)

Reported on earlier in the report of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation.

## 7. **New Business**

K. Atkinson presented a proposal to create a new Centre for Small Modular Reactors and noted the urgency as there are great funding opportunities right now. L. Jacobs noted that the proposal needed to undergo more refinement by ORS before going to Academic Council. H. Kishawy motioned "The Research Board conditionally recommends the creation of the centre to Academic Council and, after receiving the revised proposal, will hold a virtual meeting (vote) by email or phone to recommend the centre to Academic Council for the February meeting." The motion was seconded by M. Lemonde and passed by consensus.

## 8. **Other Business/Faculty Exchange**

### A. **Roundtable on issues that impact research in Faculties**

None.

## 9. **Next meeting** – March 5, 2020, 2:30 – 4:00, UB 1055.

## 10. **Adjournment** – 4:02 pm.