



Research Board Minutes

Date: March 5, 2020
Time: 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Place: UB 1055
Attendees: K. Atkinson (phone), E. Beverley (for V. Sharpe, secretary), B. Chang, C. Davidson, G. Edwards, S. Forrester, J. Freeman, L. Jacobs (Chair), M. Lemonde, R. Kay (for J. Li), S. Rahnamayan, L. Roy, A. Slane
Guest(s): None
Regrets: J. Li, V. Sharpe

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 noted that:

- This year's Futures Forum will be situated within the environmental energy sector;
- Ontario Tech is in talks with University of Toronto, Scarborough and Centennial College about joining their environmental initiative. Our participation will be important to the institution's engagement with, and consultation with, indigenous communities.
- There will be a half-day research intensive event on March 27, with a two-fold goal of research commons experience and a celebration for research applicants.
- The principal item on today's agenda will be the SRP and its advancement.

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

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

- Hiring:
 - A limited term contracts officer and an articling student have been hired as additional resources for Legal Counsel to expand the complement around contract support and reducing wait time.
 - Waiting for approval to hire replacement for FTE Intellectual Property Officer.
 - Canada Research Chair Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Director has been hired and starts July 1, 2020.
 - She will be working with the Faculty Association on the self-identification collection plan.
 - The institution met its CRC EDI targets and will continue to monitor them. The targets are changing and are looking to increase for women up to 50%; this will have a profound effect on hiring.
- Funding: the fiscal year is not complete and research funding is already on par with last year's awarded funding.
- Undergraduate Student Research Awards – all decisions have been made and accounts being set up to pay students.
- Research Ethics Board:
 - New SOPs and procedures being rolled out; there are significant overhauls to increase efficiency;

- Board of Record agreements being negotiated with Durham College, Lakeridge Health and Ontario Shores.
- M. Lemonde asked for a status update on the Lakeridge Health agreement; it is with them and is continuing to go through many reviews.
- Canarie -ORS is working with IT and others in working group.
- JELF – This is a notional envelope to be used over 3 years. It is meant to support researchers who have not previously received CFI funding. There was an error in the information barring unsuccessful CFI applicants from applying. J. Freeman will correct. **Action:** J. Freeman to modify information to clarify that unsuccessful CFI applicants are eligible for JELF.
- Research Excellence Awards:
 - Modifications made from last meeting when feedback was requested.
 - J. Freeman asked the board to agree on a launch date. Historically, the program has been launched in June with a decision made late August to early September.
 - Decision made: launch in June.
- Student research award payroll top-up:
 - In order to bring the award value up to minimum wage and in consideration of the procedures of other institutions, the Research Board previously decided that researchers must top up the NSERC student awards out of their funding. This, however, creates an unequal and unfair situation under the STAR award. J. Freeman asked whether the top-up by the researcher should be mandatory for that award as well.
 - Upon discussion, board members said that this additional mandatory top-up will prevent some researchers with less funded research from participating in the program; the proposed top-up is more than the faculty members are allotted each year for professional development so those with lower sponsored funding could not even tap into this resource alternatively.
 - Decision made: keep STAR top-up voluntary.

4. Business Arising

B. Chang asked to add REB procedures to the agenda.

- Deferred due to lack of time.

5. Strategic Research Plan (SRP)

L. Jacobs presented the latest version of the draft SRP for discussion and feedback.

- L. Jacobs noted that FESNS is not well represented but that he has not received much input. Asked FESNS board representative to follow up with his colleagues.
- Broad Themes
 - Strengthened emphasis on non-applied research and general scientific knowledge;
 - Emphasized that undergrads are important to research community and that an increase in the graduate student population is very important;
 - Objectives modified based on feedback; emphasize more than just money and included social and environmental issues;
 - Root of values is academic freedom;
 - Emphasis on commitments and principals including compliance externally with Tri-council requirements and expectations;

A. Slane left the meeting.

- Research strengths – in general:
 - Most strengths have been reframed around feedback, including taking board members' "big picture" suggestions and converting them into clear examples;
 - L. Jacobs thinks more work needs to be done on the plan but the plan needs to go to the Academic Council Steering Committee in one week, so there is a time urgency;
 - Discussion followed and involved the recognition of:
 - IT as a core strength,
 - The need to increase focus on environment and sustainability;
 - The need to increase representation of social justice.
- Action:** Board members to submit feedback including specific comment on how the strengths are captured and expressed, keeping in mind the need for a quick turnaround.

L. Roy, J. Freeman, G. Edwards, M. Lemonde and S. Rahnamayan left the meeting.

6. **New Business**
 - A. Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS) update:
 - Deferred due to lack of time.
7. **Other Business/Faculty Exchange**
 - A. **Roundtable on issues that impact research in Faculties**
Expert Centre –
 - Deferred due to lack of time.
8. **Next meeting** – April 9, 2020, 2:30 – 4:00, DTB 524, Bordessa Hall.
9. **Adjournment** – 4: 15