

## Research Board Minutes

Date: November 23, 2020  
Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
Place: Google Meets  
Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, C. Davidson, A. Eamer, G. Edwards, S. Forrester, J. Freeman, L. Jacobs (Chair),  
M. Lemonde, S. Rahnamayan, V. Sharpe (Secretary), A. Slane  
Guests: B. Dinwoodie, M. Stein (item 5), S. Babb (item 6)  
Regrets: L. Roy

---

L. Jacobs welcomed Allyson Eamer, replacing R. Ruttenberg-Rozen. He noted the role of the faculty members in representing their Faculties.

### 1. **Approval of the agenda**

Approved by consensus.

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

Approved by M. Lemonde. Seconded by S. Rahnamayan. Approved by consensus.

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

L. Jacobs:

- We are being considered, along with McMaster, to be named as a, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Collaborating Centre between the Department of Nuclear Energy at IAEA and Ontario Tech University (one per country). We've created a work plan and it appears that all of the steps have been approved. We are waiting on the final decision. The focus of the collaborating centre is on clean energy. K. Atkinson could speak more on this. This is a very positive step and the only partnership that we have at this level for this kind of depth.
- He spoke to new Vice-President at Genome Canada, Pari Johnston. She is reorienting the Genome Canada research agenda to better include smaller universities to switch away from the U15. They've identified us as a university with which they would like to have more research engagement. They have a broader vision for the things that they intend to fund and they line up with many of our faculty members' research. Les invited Research Board members to let him know if there are faculty within their faculty that would like to meet with the president and vice-president of Genome Canada in the new year.
- The government committed funding to epidemiology in COVID testing in wastewater. We are one of 4-5 universities that will see funding in this area. This funding is a new initiative launched when the pandemic struck. We were able to show our nimbleness and commitment to healthcare research using technology.
- There is an increasing scope in work beyond automotive engineering at ACE. The Project Arrow initiative, which started with the Automotive Parts Manufacturer's Association (APMA), has broadened quickly in the last 6 months re: autonomous vehicles and we've been selected as the lead university on this project. The scope in terms of research partnerships is very broad and reaches beyond the STEM subjects. The current proposal involves about 300 partners.
- We will be setting up working groups around the research priorities. This worked well last year to develop the Strategic Research Plan. The priorities are:
  - Research Metrics Dashboard
  - Canada Research Chairs program policy review
  - Data Management Strategy
  - Policy Reviews and Renewals
  - Institutes and Centres

**ACTION:** V. Sharpe to send out an email to request your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of participation on the working groups.

S. Rahnamayan requested clarification on the available CRC. J. Freeman noted that we should find out in December 2020 and that new CRC allocations are coming in July 2021. She noted that we also have renewals coming up.

L. Jacobs noted that the landscape has significantly evolved regarding EDI.

S. Forrester asked if Genome Canada will be having special calls for small universities or if they want small universities to engage in regular funding calls. He noted that their calls are usually for large scale projects for multiple institutions or smaller projects with one researcher at a small university. L. Jacobs stated that they currently operate with big projects and they've been criticized because they've mostly been led by U15 PIs and they've become sensitive to that criticism. The new president is aware of how they structure their grants and fund them. They haven't decided on changes but want to have conversations with smaller universities who they see as having lots of promise and alignment to determine what would be the best approach.

He noted that federal agencies have used small universities in the past to broaden their impact and that they are under significant pressure from the federal and provincial governments to significantly increase their private industry partnerships, such as going to an NSERC Alliance model which is partly why we're on their radar. They've also identified the areas they really want to strengthen and one is advanced manufacturing and materials composition.

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

J. Freeman provided a presentation that included information on:

- Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF)
  - Extended the deadline out to Nov 30, 2020
  - Looking for centralized expenses
  - Stage 4: Wages or wage portions of research-related personnel
- EDI – received a grant for almost the max amount. We were the second highest rated proposal in the whole competition. Working on achieving the objectives but it has been a challenge. Director of EDI hired and EDI Steering Committee meetings taking place
  - Self ID survey coming in Spring 2021
  - Looking to close our procurement process regarding purchasing a service to conduct the Employment Systems Review.
  - SSHRC Grant supplement – call coming soon.
- Hiring:
  - IP Officer hired (Alla Darwish)
  - Articling student contracted for January – April (Marian Serna)
  - Contracts Officer posted, limited term position, funded with grant funding
  - Partnerships – Julia Armstrong has returned from leave
  - Project Coordinator, City Idea Lab being posted, limited term position
  - Research Ethics Assistant full-time continuing job posted
- Funding, Fall Grants Deadlines, and numbers of applications
- REB
- Animal Care Committee (ACC visit and inspection next year)
- Biosafety & Radiation Safety
- Partnerships projects
- Undergraduate Student Research program has launched – incorporating feedback from the Research Board, updated the information and launched.

**ACTION:** J. Freeman will send an updated link for Teaching Cities.

#### **5. Social Research Centre**

M. Stein provided a presentation on the Social Research Centre (SRC) located in FSSH in hopes of increasing engagements. It is the former Centre for Evaluative Survey Research (CESR) and has been in the current format since 2015. The SRC is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Charles St. Building. The current staff of SRC is Matthew Stein, Director, and Alice Ashwith, Client Engagement Officer (a university works position).

He noted that their staff decreased dramatically as 4 students graduated. The client base is internal and external; internally mostly FSSH Faculty. A couple of projects in FESNS, Health Science and the Registrar's Office. Externally they've done work for the Local Durham Works Authority, Newcomers to Ontario through Community Development Council Durham, and a charity called Joanne's House. They did quantitative and qualitative surveys and analysis. **ACTION:** V. Sharpe to send M. Stein's presentation to the Research Board.

A. Eamer asked if their work is targeted to big data. M. Stein noted that they work on projects of any size.

M. Lemonde asked if Matthew would attend Faculty Councils to give a presentation and M. Stein replied that he would be happy to give a 10-15 minute presentation at Faculty Councils. **ACTION:** M. Stein will reach out to Faculty Executive Assistants to request time on an upcoming Faculty Council agenda.

## 6. Controlled Goods Policy

S. Babb, Compliance Officer, is working with ORS on the policy. J. Freeman noted that the Office of the VPRI will be the owner on the policy. She noted that she and S. Babb will provide an overview here and then will circulate the policy for your feedback specifically to provide clarity or if there's something substantive missing.

B. Chang noted that she has not heard the term "Controlled Goods" and asked for clarification as to whether it references tangible items or intangibles like cybersecurity, cryptocurrency, and bitcoin. S. Babb noted that controlled goods can be tangible or intangibles such as technology, training or communicating.

J. Freeman noted that our program is a bit different than in the US. In the US they indicate that certain individuals from countries of origin are not eligible to contribute. In Canada there isn't that stipulation and she noted that at the heart of it it is about military applications. She noted that there could be commercial products on the list and that they are there because they could also be used for military purposes. S. Babb noted that we will develop a Controlled Goods list so researchers can review and understand what a Controlled Good is before they begin their research or develop proposals. **ACTION:** J. Freeman will circulate the draft policy. **ACTION:** Within a week please send feedback to V. Sharpe to coordinate.

## 7. Faculty Exchange

FEAS – Nothing to report.

FSci – 15 active research labs operating on campus right now. Just completed all of their safety inspections related to COVID protocols. Everything went really well and the labs are looking good and all running smoothly.

FHSci – All labs running smoothly.

FBIT – Nothing to report.

FESNS – Faculty are following the procedures in place regarding labs operating on campus.

FEd – Nothing to report.

FSSH – Only one researcher has applied to re-open their lab due to the nature of their space and the requirements of the project and having people in the same room to do the experiments. Something to discuss is what happens if the FORC and the OPS TF don't agree? L. Jacobs noted that in this case the issue may be that the two collaborating universities may be located in different geographical areas under different conditions due the pandemic.

SGPS – Nothing to report as L. Roy is absent.

## 8. Other Business

L. Jacobs noted that the Return to On-Campus Research Task Force had been considering whether we were moving from Stage 3 to 4 to 5. He noted that Durham Region has gone into the red zone so that's not our call and that at present we are not entertaining returning to stages 2 or 1.

L. Jacobs also noted that we are thinking about taking advantage of a program with Mitacs to hire a Business Development Officer (BDO), heavily subsidized by Mitacs to work with our researchers to develop partnerships with funding by Mitacs. Given where the university is going with research priorities, someone who has deep ties around the energy sector would be beneficial. He noted that he has contacted a couple of the Deans about funding for the BDO. He is introducing it here as other faculties might be interest specifically FBIT, Science and Health Science.

## 9. Next meeting – ~~December 17, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Google Meets~~ cancelled due to lack of business items January 28, 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Google meets

**ACTION:** Send suggestions on agenda items to Vivianne by one week prior.

## 10. Adjournment