



Research Board Minutes

Date: Sept 21, 2021
Time: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Place: Google Meets
Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, C. Davidson, S. Downing, G. Edwards, S. Forrester, J. Freeman, L. Jacobs (Chair), M. Lemonde, S. Rahnamayan, L. Roy, V. Sharpe (secretary)

Regrets: R. Ruttenberg-Rozen

1. Welcome

L. Jacobs welcomed new and returning members and introductions were made.

2. Approval of the agenda

Approved by consensus.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Approved by M. Lemonde & L. Roy.

4. Report of the Vice President Research & Innovation

L. Jacobs noted the upcoming Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30 and the university recommendation to have a meeting-free day so that employees can participate in Truth and Reconciliation Day activities.

L. Jacobs noted that last year he implemented a vice-chair role on this committee and nominated S. Forrester for the role. He explained that the role was for someone who has a history of serving on the Research Board. S. Forrester accepted and there was unanimous consent. L. Jacobs discussed the importance of the committee and how there is a two-directional information share with Faculties, Grad Studies, the Library and Research Finance.

He noted that the final numbers on research funding are in and the university saw total funding for the previous year of \$23.5 million (roughly twice what it was 2 years ago). He commented on the momentum the research enterprise has to continue with this success and build on it.

L. Jacobs commented that perhaps not enough attention has been paid to research rankings in the past. Research funding is an important factor in research rankings. Ontario Tech jumped 5 points last year in terms of rankings and this increase in funding should see us ranking higher the next time. L. Jacobs shared that J. Stokes took the lead in getting us ranked in the Times Higher Education where we are ranked in the 600-800 range. Now that we've entered the rankings it should be easier for us to move up the ranks. Other rankings still to come out this Fall.

L. Jacobs outlined his research strategy: the key ingredient for increasing research intensity is to have more successful large collaborative research projects or initiatives; therefore his goal to establish institutes and centres and he noted that there are two still unfolding – the Brilliant Energy Institute (BEI) and the Long Term Care Research Centre (name tbd). He shared that the university has received the largest donation to research (3-4 million dollar range) targeted specifically to capital investments in research and that an announcement is coming soon. This funding will go to lab enhancements in ERC. A new Executive Director, Brilliant Energy Institute will be forthcoming (interim or new search). The formal application for the institute will come to the Research Board in the fall. The creation for a research centre on Long Term Care largely came about due to

COVID and the exact shape is still to be determined. Next week there will be a call for a Research Director or co-Research Director like the way we've done with Ontario Shores.

L. Jacobs noted that the Research Excellence Chair competition is beginning later this week and that there will be four chairs, two of which will be tied to the Brilliant Energy Institute.

M. Lemonde asked for a Research Ethics Board (REB) update. L. Jacobs noted that the REB reports to the President. The COVID restrictions have most impacted the Faculties of Health Science and Social Science and Humanities. The REB has been struggling with some protocols since we went into the lockdown last fall. He noted that the REB looking for a Vice-Chair and Faculty are invited to express their interest (2course releases for chair, 1 for vice-chair). L. Jacobs noted that the university encourages the Vice-Chair to be an active human participant researcher and that his office is adding additional staff support in the form of a Research Ethics Coordinator to assist with the REB, Animal Care and Radiation and Biosafety (now a permanent position converted from a contract). Both this position and the Research Ethics Officer will be ex-officio and can facilitate making the board more efficient and consistent in its decision-making. He noted that the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities is looking to inform a process/protocol to have an expedited process in place for graduate students.

As a final update L. Jacobs touched on research motivation noting that we've had a high number of researchers applying for research funding and successes across all faculties including major increases in tri-council funding and Research Excellence Chairs are a great opportunity to recognize faculty.

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

J. Freeman provided and circulated a presentation that included information on/about:

- Significant increase in CIHR funding.
- Streamlined process for applications to resume on-campus research activity. Nimble and supportive of needs of faculty.
- REB position statement on vaccination.
- ORS continuing to work primarily remotely through December.
- Vacancies – Manager, Research Partnerships & Innovation, Research Contracts Officer, Research Ethics Coordinator and Research Business Analyst.
- Employment Systems Review (Equity Diversity and Inclusion) – survey going out this fall, focus groups in January, and final report in March 2022.
- Funding.
- Large initiatives expected this fall.
- Undergraduate Research – discussion about Faculty contributions to funding undergraduate research awards. **ACTION:** Faculty members are asked to seek input from their Deans and colleagues and bring to a future discussion.

G. Edwards noted that he will be looking at in-kind funding and how we can best report those funding numbers.

6. Annual Reports from Research Entities

Annual reports from the Digital Life Institute (DLI), the Centre on Hate, Bias and Extremism (CHBE), and the Institute for Cyber Security and Resilient Systems (ICSRS) presented for information. L. Roy noted that it would be nice to have consistent formatting for the reports across the entities. L. Roy asked about the DLI report (April 2021) and the Insight Grant. L. Jacobs noted that they did not go forward with this grant and his office will endeavour to create a template for the reports.

7. Working Groups on Research Priorities

Data Management Strategy
Research Metrics Dashboard
Institutes and Centres
Canada Research Chairs Program Policy Review

All deferred.

8. Faculty Exchange

FBIT – no update.

FESNS – still working on getting a sub-critical reactor on campus.

FEAS – in process of collecting signatures in support of reduced fees for international students. The FEAS Graduate Program Director (GPD) initiated it to make our university more attractive to international students. L. Jacobs noted that this is a priority in the Strategic Research Plan. L. Roy stated that he has been able to make reductions for some students.

SGPS – L. Roy noted that a major first step to assist with international graduate fees was taken by the university last year including Graduate International Intake Scholarships.

Health Sciences – Faculty moving into Shawenjigewining Hall soon.

FSSH – Communications person in FSSH to promote research after a low profile year.

Science – no report.

Education – no report.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Next meeting – October 19, 2021

11. Adjournment – 2:00 pm