

Research Board Minutes

Date: January 18, 2022
Time: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Place: Google Meet
Attendees: K. Atkinson, B. Chang, C. Davidson, S. Downing, S. Forrester (Vice-Chair), J. Freeman, L. Jacobs (Chair), M. Lemonde, B. Murphy, S. Rahnamayan, R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, V. Sharpe (secretary), B. Suter
Guest(s): L. Rendl (12:50 – 1:05), J. Hoornweg (1:35-1:55)
Regrets:

L. Jacobs welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting. He thanked Greg Edwards and Langis Roy for their service on the committee and welcomed Bernadette Murphy, interim Dean of School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Ben Suter, Finance Director of Operations.

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 thanked the Research Excellence Chairs (REC) adjudication committee for their work. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of the competition by the end of the week. He noted the high calibre of the researchers that had applied and that 6 chairs are being awarded instead of the original 4 because the pool was so deep. Another competition is anticipated next fall. Within a couple of years we'll have approximately 20 RECs within the university. This demonstrates the great research contributions of our Faculty.

L. Jacobs noted lots of institutional developments within the Brilliant Energy Institute (BEI) and that Jacquie Hoornweg (guest) will provide more details later in the meeting. He elaborated that the BEI is lining up with many priorities including the Canada Research Excellence competition and that he will try to continue to generate opportunities under the BEI umbrella that touch all faculties.

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

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

- Research COVID-19 update
- Canada First Research Excellence (CFREF) program
 - Very large, institutional submissions
 - Annual budget up to \$200 million per year
 - Deadline for LOIs March 1, 2022
 - Deadline for full application August 31, 2022 (may be pushed out)
 - Results announced in Winter 2023
- Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC)
 - Two maximum award values up to \$1 million per year or up to \$500,000 per year
 - Deadline for registration May 2, 2022
 - Deadline for full application June 1, 2022
 - Results announced in Spring 2023
- ORS Hiring and Recruitment
 - Manager, Research Partnerships – Danielle Saney

- Law Practice Program Candidate (Law program student, one term) – Harold Lee
- Research Business Analyst – Mousumi Akhter
- Grants Officer (limited term) – Joanne Hui
- Research Contracts Officer (limited term) – in process
- Research Partnerships Officer (limited term) – in process
- Funding numbers – incomplete data presented as there are a few months of data remaining to be included (April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022)
- Employment Systems Review Survey – only about 23% of targeted university population participated
- REB – have worked through the backlog and are caught up
- Biosafety & Radiation Safety – Total of 34 inspections took place
- Controlled Goods – inspection took place December 6, 2021. More training coming in the year.

S. Forrester asked about new CRC applications J. Freeman noted that there is an active hire in process in FSSH. They have a Tier 2 chair ending. There is a commitment by the university for each faculty to have one CRC.

She noted that the Federal government committed to establishing 1000 new CRCs so we may have new allocations. The government does a reallocation every odd calendar year.

5. CFI JELF Internal Call Consultation

L. Rendl presented information on the upcoming CFI John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) and encouraged dissemination of information to Faculty. The deadline for internal applications is April 25, 2022 and the deadline for application to CFI is October 15, 2022.

S. Forrester asked about a large CFI going forward with a large team and would being involved in this be detrimental to being involved with the other large CFI grants going in. L. Rendl replied that researchers can't apply for the same equipment but they can apply for something else.

K. Atkinson asked if there is a plan to have an institutional application on a university priority. L. Rendl noted that the Strategic Research Plan drives the research priorities and large applications.

K. Atkinson asked about the funding envelopes. L. Rendl noted that the budget hadn't yet been carved into larger chunks; normally they are \$75k to maximum. The committee decides on the most meritorious applications. She noted the university was able to support multiple proposals in the last round. She asked for feedback on prioritizing team applications and early career researchers. There was no feedback or opposition.

6. Age With Dignity Campus of Care and Best Practices Research Centre proposal

M. Lemonde provided a presentation on the Age with Dignity Research Centre. She noted that "in the next 20 years the population of people 65 years of age and older will grow by 68%" so there is a real need for research, policy and advocacy in this area. The Centre would have four Research Pillars:

- Aging Interdisciplinary Research
- Social and Technological Solutions
- Policy and Evidence-Informed Practice
- Community-Driven Research and Innovation

S. Rahnamayan suggested that the proposal also focus on people under age 65 who may benefit from this centre and noted possible opportunities with the two hospitals in our area. M. Lemonde agreed that being a senior doesn't start at 65 and that they would be working with the hospitals and have been closely, especially during COVID.

M. Lemonde noted that anyone interested in joining the proposal or the centre is welcome.

M. Lemonde left the meeting. A vote was held to support or not support the creation of the centre. The proposal received unanimous support. The Research Board voted to recommend to Academic Council the creation of the centre.

M. Lemonde rejoined the meeting.

7. Brilliant Energy Institute Update

L. Jacobs introduced Jacquie Hoornweg, Executive Director, Brilliant Energy Institute (BEI) and noted that a formal proposal to create the centre would be forthcoming by the end of this academic year.

J. Hoornweg provided an introduction of her experience and background. She noted that she is working on developing a strategy for the BEI, which will include creating meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

S. Rahnamayan asked for a list of faculty members involved in the centre. J. Hoornweg noted that she has been meeting with Deans and Faculty and getting to know the university from the inside and hasn't established Faculty Member partners yet. She hopes to identify the internal stakeholders when creating the proposal that will come to the Research Board.

S. Rahnamayan noted that the university announced its top 1% researchers – Marc Rosen and Ibrahim Dincer – and they should likely be invited to participate.

L. Jacobs noted that two of the six Research Excellence Chairs will be Energy researchers. The initial vision of the BEI is to optimally have researchers that engage – not just from FEAS, FESNS, and Science – as energy is a pan-university engagement.

C. Davidson suggested that she would be happy to meet with Jacquie, including Library senior leadership, on data management, metrics, etc. She noted that she leads the President's Indigenous Task Force and suggested that there may be opportunities to connect on this. J. Hoornweg agreed and noted that they definitely want to work together to build on what's already been done and not work at cross purposes regarding the Task Force.

R. Ruttenberg-Rozen suggested that J. Hoornweg speak with Bernie Petit, an Indigenous Scholar, and offered to make the connection.

L. Jacobs stated that the goal of having J. Hoornweg here to present is to keep the Research Board updated.

8. Research Entity Annual Report – Centre for Small Modular Reactors

K. Atkinson noted that the first year was challenging due to COVID. While the CSMR is a research centre, its focus is on partnerships with industry. It is a niche that is collaborative and distinct from other activities of the BEI although will be under the BEI umbrella.

9. Faculty Exchange

Deferred

10. Other Business

None.

11. Next meeting – February 15, 2022

12. Adjournment – 2:01 pm