

Research Board Minutes

Date: March 22, 2022
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Place: Google Meet
Attendees: K. Atkinson, S. Brown, 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),
Guest(s):
Regrets:

S. Forrester welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting.

1. **Approval of the agenda**

Moved by S. Forrester. Seconded by M. Lemonde. Approved by consensus.

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

Approved by R. Ruttenberg-Rozen, seconded by S. Rahnamayan. Approved by consensus.

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

L. Jacobs that he is delighted to report that Ontario Tech was awarded 2 Banting Post Docs. There were 72 awards in total. Last year UBC had 2+, U of T had 2, and many universities had none. Post docs can be held internationally. R. Ruttenberg-Rozen is one of the supervisors so a hearty congratulations to her. The institutional score has the same rate as the interpersonal score. The fact that we scored so high is really exemplary. Especially of note is that R. Ruttenberg-Rozen's post doc scored first among all applicants.

L. Jacobs noted that in tandem with working on the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) we've entered new major territory in the research space around what's called Work-Integrated Learning. These funds (outside of tri-council) support work and skills. Research communities haven't really begun to pursue grant funding in these areas with the exception of Ryerson. Their total research funding topped \$100 million dollars. A 5-fold increase in the last 5 years. \$50-60-million of this is in work-integrated programs.

L. Jacobs reported that Ontario Tech submitted 2 large grants last week:

- \$19.5 million ask focused on the Energy sector - Employment and Social Development Canada (which is a compliment to CFREF)
- \$14.5-15 million ask with 4 other institutions - EaRTH District

We don't know yet if either will be successful but it signals a whole large new opportunity around the build on partnerships. We have had success on small envelopes through Brilliant Catalyst. There are huge opportunities for Health Sciences and in other sectors.

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

J. Freeman welcomed Susanne Brown, Manager, Research Finance to the committee. J. Freeman provided and circulated a presentation that included information on/about:

- Research COVID-19 update – Researchers who have not previously received FORC approval to resume on-campus research activities must complete the Return to Campus Checklist and the Laboratory Guidance Document and Pre-start Lab Checklist.
- ORS Hiring and Recruitment
 - Research Business Analyst – Had filled this position but unfortunately looking to fill again.

- Research Contracts Officer (limited term) – Gary Larsen
- Research Partnerships Officer (limited term) – Felipe Rubio
- EDI Project Coordinator (Provost's Office) – Eva Bosnjak
- Canada First Research Excellence (CFREF) program
 - LOI deadline April 5, 2022
 - Full application deadline August 31, 2022 (by invitation only)
 - Identified theme: Integrated Energy Systems
 - Three pillars: Socio-Economic Aspects and Technology Enablers, Advance Clean Energy Systems, Integrate clean energy systems that build resilient, healthy communities and power a low-carbon economy
- REB and Compliance Committees
- Controlled Goods

5. Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)

L. Jacobs provided a presentation on this grant application. He noted the theme of Integrated Energy Systems, that the Brilliant Energy Institute (BEI) will lead the scientific strategy and that ORS is helping with the administrative logistics of the application. The Scientific Strategy is 5 pages of the whole app but essential. Our application aligns with the government strategy. L. Jacobs noted the need to have a transformational proposal and one that includes sub-themes under pillars of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Truth and Reconciliation. He noted that he is working on developing Team Leads – 1 for each pillar/sub-pillar – with research teams that will work on that area as well as working on identifying key university partners.

S. Forrester asked if it is necessary to identify the approach to the requirements in the LOI. J. Freeman noted that it is and one has to note how you are aligning or why you're not and this information has to be imbedded throughout – including imbedding EDI, the indigenous component should be part of the research methodology and should look at indigenous community as an important component. She noted that EDI encompasses how we are making decisions, how we ensure that we recruit and train encompassing EDI values.

S. Forrester noted that Ontario Tech is competing against big universities so we have to differentiate ourselves and to instill that we can do something transformative with this project. Something we can highlight is our cross-disciplinary research such as the Science/Engineering collaborations over the years, etc. The more evidence we can demonstrate the stronger our application will be. J. Freeman agreed and noted that a lot of the application is demonstrating our track record/input/output in supporting students, etc. and if we get the CFREF it would really impact our university and our students. The majority of the application is talking about the university landscape.

J. Freeman noted that the budget is approximately \$60 million of which \$30 million are direct cost of research, \$10 million to implementation, and \$10-15-20 million institutional match. Equals \$4-6 million/year.

L. Jacobs noted that it is an interesting funding envelope because it is primarily around personnel (junior faculty, grad students, post-docs) and there is a cap on infrastructure spending.

B. Murphy asked about the budget and institution contribution and whether these can include the salaries of researchers. L. Jacobs noted they can as well as industry partner contributions (estimated at \$1 million/year) and that Advancement is working with donors on contributions which we hope to be approximately \$15 million. (slide 6 of budget)

L. Jacobs noted that in general the criticisms the university has faced are that as an institution we don't put forward enough funding. He noted he is aiming at a 50% match so that we're putting \$20 million on table if we're asking for \$40 million. There is no cap on how much we can ask for. Eg. Dal asked for \$90 mill for an oceanography project.

ACTION: Send feedback to J. Freeman on institutional capacity, upcoming new faculty hires that would be a fit in the next 3-5-7 years, ideas on how we can differentiate, suggestions on EDI, institutional strengths, etc.

ACTION: Internal reviewers of the application are needed. If interested contact J. Freeman.

M. Lemonde asked if anyone in Health Sciences should be targeted to be included. J. Freeman noted that ORS needs reviewers who have grant reviewing experience, large-grant holders, etc. and that J. Hoornweg has been reaching out to faculty to identify faculty members and team leads by making presentations at Faculty Councils, and meeting with the Deans.

6. Faculty Exchange

- Health Science – M. Lemonde noted that on March 11 the Board of Governors approved the creation of the Age With Dignity Campus of Care and Best Practices Research Centre and that S. Dogra is organizing a mini conference called Canadian Active Aging Research Meeting to be held on north campus June 7-8 and it is free to attend.
- Graduate Studies – B. Murphy said they are working on getting more Graduate International Tuition Scholarships and working on creating ranked lists to bridge the gap between domestic and international tuition.
- FEAS – no update.
- Library – On the next Research Board agenda C. Davidson will provide an update on Research Data Management and RDM plans. She offered to be the institutional contact on the EARTH proposal if needed and noted that the library received a large donation of books and documents from the Nicholas Sion estate.
- Education – R. Ruttenberg-Rozen noted an Education conference coming up in May for grad students and faculty and the papers will be published in journals. She noted her excitement for her Banting Postdoc.
- FSSH – S. Downing noted that the FSSH executive team meeting earlier this morning where the CFREF process was discussed. He noted that Tanner Mirrlees had really good insights. He noted that J. Freeman was instrumental in helping with the CRC candidate FSSH has going forward.
- FBIT – B. Chang noted that J. Hoornweg presented the CFREF at the FBIT Faculty Council and many researchers in Business and IT were interested in being involved.
- FESNS – K. Atkinson reported that faculty are confused due to organizational changes within the faculty. H said J. McKellar is leading a Mitacs proposal involving him and a FEAS researcher regarding Life Cycle Assessment with Queens and Western and that the sub-critical reactor is arriving this week.
- Science – no update.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Next meetings – April 19, 2022 and May 17

9. Adjournment – 1:07 pm