UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

Board of Governors

Item for Information

Subject: Report on Research at the University of Regina

1. Status report on the response to the Provincial Auditor’s Report on Research at the University of Regina (PARR) (until implementation is complete)

Policy revisions are still in process. The Research Office is working with Human Resources to make sure that policies under review are consistent with the collective agreements on campus.

The Request for Proposals for the Grant Management System was released on August 30. In December 2016, Converis was chosen as the solution which best satisfied the needs of the university. We are now working with the implementation team at Clarivate Analytics, vendor of Converis to install and configure the system.

Review committees and meeting dates are being arranged for research centre reviews (Clean Energy Technology Research Institute, Humanities Research Institute). Although the Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit (SIDRU) was originally scheduled for a centre review as described in policy RCH-010-005, in 2016 the internal auditor conducted a review of SIDRU and it is currently undergoing a review by the Faculty of Education. Therefore, a review under the policy has been postponed until after SIDRU has incorporated recommendations from those two reviews.

Demonstration of implementation of RC&I policy: We are working toward suspension of operations at PARC in light of fiscal constraints and lack of sustained external investments, particularly federal and provincial governments who were instrumental in the establishment of PARC. Should no new funding be received by late 2017, action will be taken for formally disestablish PARC as a University-Based Research Centre or Institute. In the intervening months, any affected staff and students will be reassigned and contracts allowed to lapse, as relevant.

The Provincial Auditors are reviewing progress made by the University on the recommendations of the PARR. A report is expected by March, 2017.

2. Report on the status of action plans to actualize the Strategic Research Plan identified in response to PARR Recommendation 4

In January, the University launched its Strategic Research Plan (2016-2021) which will guide the University’s research endeavours over the next five years.

Implementation Planning. The Office of the Vice-President (Research) in collaboration with stakeholders continued work on developing a multi-year plan for research-related implementation of the University’s strategic plan and the Strategic Research Plan 2016-2021.
The implementation plan is anticipated to be complete before the end of the second quarter of 2017. Following completion, the plan will be shared with the University community. The intent moving forward is to report progress on the plan quarterly and to update the plan annually. Discussions on similar plans have begun with the University’s research centres and institutes and Faculties. It is hoped that the VPR’s plan serves as a demonstration of strategy implementation that can be followed by other units over the next few years.

3. Performance measures with respect to the Strategic Research Plan identified in response to PARR recommendation 5: data for each measure, identification of targets, progress with respect to the targets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Strategic Priority/Strategic Theme</th>
<th>Performance Measure</th>
<th>Performance Measure Definition</th>
<th>2015-16 Final</th>
<th>2016-17 Target</th>
<th>2016-17 January</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Research Impact/Sustainability</td>
<td>Tri-Council &amp; Other Provincial/Federal Grants</td>
<td>Total number of tri-council, Canada Council, and other provincial/national funding agency/foundation grants currently held by faculty</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>210 awards</td>
<td>208</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Research Impact/Sustainability</td>
<td>Research Revenue</td>
<td>Total research funding (contracts and grants) earned from all sources, including awards made directly by Canada Council and other agencies/foundations</td>
<td>$18.3M</td>
<td>$22M</td>
<td>$5.1M</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Research Impact</td>
<td>Normalised Citation Impact (NCI)</td>
<td>The NCI measures the quotient of an observed citation rate or impact of an institution and an expected citation rate for the institution or country.</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1.41</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Research Impact</td>
<td>International Collaboration</td>
<td>The proportion of total publications co-authored with researchers outside of Canada. Data obtained from l’Observatoire des sciences et des technologies’ (OST) Canadian bibliometric database. Calculated over a multi-year period (2010-14).</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Note – NCI (2008-2014) for UofS, York, Carleton, Memorial, Concordia, UofR, UNB, and Windsor. Uof R NCI was highest among these universities for impact factor and % cited. This was across all research disciplines.

2UofR ranked highest among the following: Brock, Carleton, Concordia, Memorial, Ryerson, Simon Fraser, UQAM, Guelph, UNB, UofR, Waterloo, Windsor, Wilfrid Laurier, Victoria, and York.
4. Research highlights since the last report: funding, awards, recognition, major publications, partnerships, etc.

- Mohan Babu (Science) received $1,123,815 in federal funding from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) for research to understand and combat antibiotic resistance. Of the 491 grants approved across Canada, only three were awarded to Saskatchewan.

- The Department of Physics in collaboration with the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation is leading a major project with the potential to revolutionize plant research. The PhytoPET is a real-time imaging detector used to study plants under different conditions. This project, the first of its kind in Canada, has been made possible thanks to a $1.45 million contribution from the Fedoruk Centre, which in turn is funded by Innovation Saskatchewan.

- Iryna Khovrenkov (Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy) is part of a team that received three-year funding of $198,300 from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada to develop a body of scientific knowledge about Canadian grant-making foundations. Research into this area is important because it will provide the public with greater insight into how Canadian foundations can affect social change. Through her efforts to develop connections and learn more about Regina’s grant-making foundation sector, Khovrenkov was asked by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation (SSCF) to work with them on their Regina Area Vital Signs Report for 2016.

- Heather Hadjistavropoulos (Arts) received $356,000 in funding from the provincial Ministry of Health to support her work in internet-delivered cognitive behaviour therapy (ICBT) – a tool that has been shown to be convenient and importantly, effective in reducing the unnecessary suffering caused by anxiety and depression.

- As part of a tour of western Canadian universities, the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Federal Minister of Science, visited the University of Regina to find out more about the ongoing research being conducted on campus. The tour included stops at the Institute for Microbial Systems and Society, the Clinical Health Psychology Research Lab and the Clean Energy Technologies Research Institute.

- “Vous êtes ici” (You Are Here), the latest feature length film by Mark Wihak (Media, Art and Performance) was screened at the Regina Public Library Film Theatre in November. The movie looks at experiences of tourism in Paris.

- Susanne Kuehling (Arts) gave a public talk examining kula at the MacKenzie Art Gallery. Kula is an elaborate and time-honoured gift-giving custom from a remote region of Papua New Guinea and has been the topic of Kuehling’s research since 2009. The research is funded by an Insight Grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council.

- Ryan McKellar, adjunct professor in the biology department and Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) was co-author of a paper in the journal “Current Biology” on a feathered dinosaur tail preserved in amber. The specimen was discovered in China by Lida Xing from the China University of Geosciences. McKellar applied specialized photography and microscopy set up at the RSM to study the specimen. The research was funded in part from the Chinese Academy of Science and other partners in China, a National Geographic Expeditions Council grant, and the National Sciences Engineering Research Council of Canada.