Subject: Report on Research at the University of Regina

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

Recommendation #9 – Specialized Resources

JSGS approved the following definition of specialized resources at the JSGS U of Regina Faculty Council on October 5, 2017:

A resource is considered specialized at JSGS when:

- it can only be operated and maintained by a technician with specialized training, paid from the JSGS Operating Budget or external grant funding;
- and/or the resource is not generally available at other institutions in Canada of comparable or lesser size.

A resource is considered NOT to be specialized at JSGS when:

- it is provided as part of a standard academic or administrative environment provided to all/most faculty members in aid of the performance of normal duties;
- and/or it is purchased with start-up research funds or other funds normally provided from JSGS to academic staff members.

With this definition now in place, the University will be able to consistently apply the definitions, which will fulfil Recommendation #10.

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

Research Strategy Implementation. The Research Strategy Implementation Team, led by the Vice-President Research held a quarterly portfolio review meeting in November. The purpose of the meeting is to review progress of initiatives within the portfolio plan, “The VPR’s Portfolio 2016-2021: A Plan for Research Strategy Implementation”. The quarterly report of progress and status against the portfolio plan was posted on the University website following the review meeting and is appended to this report.
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>2016-17 Final</th>
<th>2017-18 Target</th>
<th>2017-18 Dec.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Research Impact/Sustainability</td>
<td>Research Grants</td>
<td>Total number of active, externally-funded research projects administered by the University through the financial system. Active means either revenue or expenses in the relevant fiscal year.</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Research Impact/Sustainability</td>
<td>Research Revenue</td>
<td>Total research funding received from all active externally-funded research projects administered by the University through a financial system in the given period.</td>
<td>$15.5M</td>
<td>$18.0M</td>
<td>$4.26M¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Research Impact</td>
<td>Average of Relative Citations (ARC)</td>
<td>This indicator is based on the number of citations received by an individual paper for a 3-year period following the year of publication. Citation counts are then normalized by the average number of citations received by all papers in the same sub-field. ARC values are 5-year averages (2-year lag).</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>1.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Research Impact</td>
<td>International Research Collaboration</td>
<td>The proportion of total publications co-authored with researchers outside of Canada. Five-year average with a two-year lag.</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Research revenue is tracking ahead of last fiscal year; at this time in 2016-17, research revenue was reported at $3.0M.
4. Research highlights since the last report: funding, awards, recognition, major publications, partnerships, etc.

- The Honourable Ralph Goodale, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Science, Kristy Duncan, announced more than $2 million in Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) funding for 16 University of Regina researchers. The researchers receiving Discovery Grants this year are Mark Brigham and Kerri Finlay, Biology; Allan East, Chemistry; Cory Butz, Orland Hoeber, Jing Tao Yao, Yiyu Yao, and Sandra Zilles, Computer Science; Yee-Chung Jin, Mehran Mehrandezh, Farshid Torabi, and Peng Wu, Engineering and Applied Science; Allen Herman and Andrei Volodin, Mathematics; and, Chris Oriet, Psychology. Renata Raina-Fulton in Chemistry is receiving a Discovery Development Grant.

- Substantial federal funding for University of Regina health research was announced by the Honourable Ralph Goodale, speaking on behalf of the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Canada’s Minister of Health. Three research projects geared at helping address the challenges facing Indigenous youth, people living with neurodegenerative disorders, such as Parkinson’s disease, and people who receive mental health care, received more than $3.7 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Mohan Babu, Chemistry and Biochemistry, will use his more than $1.9 million grant to shed light on the genes linked to Parkinson’s disease (note – this award was first mentioned in the September 2017 report). Heather Hadjistavropoulos, Psychology and director of the Online Therapy Unit, will use her $971,000 grant to research internet-delivered cognitive behavioural therapy to make accessing mental health care easier for all Canadians. Tarun Katapally, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, will use his more than $772,000 grant to study how to adopt culturally appropriate ways to integrate physical activity into the daily lives of Indigenous youth to foster better physical, mental and emotional health.

- Michael Rollo, Faculty of Media, Art and Performance, has received a Canada Council Grant for Research and Creation in the amount of $17,000 for a new film entitled, “Hunting for Mushrooms”. Additionally, Rollo’s film “Farewell Transmission” (2017) was screened at eight festivals in Canada and internationally this fall.

- Pamela Osmond-Johnson, Education, was recently honoured by the EdCan Network with the Pat Clifford Award for Early Career Research in Education. The prestigious award recognizes the work of emerging researchers – their research contributions, their promise, and their commitment to breaking new ground or revisiting commonly held assumptions in education policy, practice or theory in Canada. The EdCan Network, an independent national organization with more than 75,000 members, gives a voice to educators working in Canada’s K-12 education.

- Margot Hurlbert, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, has been appointed a Co-ordinating Lead Author by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for its Special Report on Land and Climate. The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme to provide periodic scientific assessments regarding climate change to governments at all levels and to inform the UN Climate Conference – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Hurlbert is one of only 104 people who were selected as Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors by the IPCC from the 640 names proposed by governments.
Heather Hadjistavropoulos, Psychology, has been named as one of 150 leading Canadians for Mental health by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The award recognizes people who are changing the course of mental health. As founder of the Online Therapy Unit at the University of Regina, Hadjistavropoulos was selected for the award out of more than 3,700 individuals nominated for “leading the way in bringing publically funded, online cognitive behavioural therapy to Canadians” and helping “many who might not otherwise have access to psychotherapy, such as those living in remote and rural locations.” The Online Therapy Unit is now funded annually by Saskatchewan Health. The unit’s work has attracted the attention of Canada’s major health insurance providers. The Unit has been awarded two research contracts from Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada and Co-operators Group Limited to help pilot-test new online Cognitive Behaviour Therapy programs for them.

Qingwang Yuan, a postdoctoral fellow in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science received the Mitacs Postdoctoral Award for Outstanding Innovation at the 7th Annual Mitacs Awards. Yuan was among five researchers from across Canada who were recognized for their innovative efforts to transform the lives of Canadians. While on a Mitacs fellowship with the Saskatchewan Research Council, Yuan developed a computer model that significantly improves the enhanced oil recovery process. Mitacs is a national, not-for-profit organization that has designed and delivered research and training programs in Canada for 18 years. Working with 60 universities, thousands of companies, and both federal and provincial governments, Mitacs builds partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada.

Ryan Clark, a recent graduate in environmental system engineering from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, was invited to represent the U of R at a dinner hosted by Governor-General David Johnston at Rideau Hall. According to the invitation, the dinner is in recognition of “principal supporters of the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Programme.” Clark is a scholarship recipient. The QEII Scholarship is a collaboration between Universities Canada, Community Foundations of Canada and the Rideau Hall Foundation. The program is also made possible thanks to financial support from the Government of Canada, provincial governments (including Saskatchewan) and the private sector. The scholarship supports graduate students who wish to pursue their studies abroad at Commonwealth partner countries. Clark spent eight months recently at the Department of Chemical Engineering at the prestigious Imperial College, in London, UK.

A national study, entitled, “Mental Disorder Symptoms Among Public Safety Personnel in Canada,” focused on the mental health of public safety personnel and was released by a team of researchers with the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment, led by Nick Carleton (Psychology). According to the report, substantial proportions of Canada’s public safety personnel self-report symptoms consistent with one or more mental disorders, proportions that appear much higher than have been found in previous research with the general public. The research was funded in part by Public Safety Canada.

Researchers at the University of Regina have recently launched a new climate change tool designed to help project future climate changes. The tool, called the Canada Climate Change Data Portal, was developed by researchers in the University of Regina’s Institute for Energy Environment and Sustainable Communities. Gordon Huang, executive
director of the IEESC and professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, says this GIS and web-based data portal is the first coordinated effort for projecting climate change in Canada using high-resolution regional climate simulations. According to Huang, this free, easy-to-use data portal is a one-stop-shop for government, academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to access information needed to enhance community resilience and to mitigate and prevent disasters, such as floods, droughts, forest fires and winter storms. This research is supported by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Canada Research Chairs Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.

- The University of Regina welcomes to campus the institution’s inaugural Fulbright Canada Research Chair. As part of the prestigious Fulbright Canada program, Dr. Richard Russo, an associate professor of geography from Frostburg State University in Maryland, will spend the Fall 2017 semester conducting research on campus and across Saskatchewan. Russo says the main objective of his research project is to understand the role of books and written language in creating places and spaces of Fransaskois(e)/francophone identity.

- The University of Regina’s Indigenous Research Day was held in late October to showcase the Indigenous-centred scholarship that is fundamental to the University. This year, twenty-one oral presentations and three poster presentations highlighted Indigenous peoples and their ways of knowing, Indigenous-centred research methodology, as well as Indigenous cultures, contemporary issues, histories and artworks. The full-day event was preceded with a screening of RIIS from Amnesia, a film about the Regina Indian Industrial School cemetery, directed by Saskatchewan filmmakers Janine Windolph and Trudy Stewart. The film was followed by the launch of a book by Dr. Douglas Stewart, professor emeritus in the Faculty of Education, entitled, The Regina Indian Industrial School (1891-1910): Historical Overview and Chronological Narrative.