# COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

**Thursday 4 March 2021 – 2:30 to 4:00 pm**

**AGENDA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Items</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Approval of Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:32 pm</td>
<td>Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2021</td>
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<td>Appendix 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:35 pm</td>
<td>Chair’s Report</td>
<td>Al-Anbagi</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:40 pm</td>
<td>VP Research Report</td>
<td>McNutt</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:50 pm</td>
<td>Indigenous Research Showcase Update</td>
<td>Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>CIFAR Chair in AI</td>
<td>Butz</td>
<td>Appendix 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:10 pm</td>
<td>Website Redesign Project Update</td>
<td>Sawa/Stecyk</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:20 pm</td>
<td>Business Arising</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Adjournment</td>
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**CCR Subcommittees**

- **Standing**
  - CFI

- **Ad-hoc**
  - Research Impact
  - Terms of Reference
  - Covid-19 Return to Research

**Distribution**

- Kathy McNutt, VP Research
- Chris Yost, AVP Research
- Aziz Douai, Graduate Student & Research
- Sally Gray, Director, Research Office
- Raymond Blake, Arts
- Lisa Watson, Business Administration
- Twyla Salm, Education
- Raman Paranjape, Engineering & Applied Science
- Jim Farney, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School
- Larena Hoeber, Kinesiology & Health Studies
- Christine Ramsay, Media, Art & Performance
- Joan Wagner, Nursing

- Cory Butz, Science
- Gabriela Novotna, Social Work
- Kaetlyn Phillips, Library
- David Meban, Campion College
- Francesco Freddolini, Luther College
- Bettina Schneider, First Nations University of Canada
- Sandra Zilles, CRC Rep.
- Nathalie Reid, CTRC
- Irfan Al-Anbagi – Council Member (Chair of CCR)
- Sheila Hirani, Nursing
- Sheila Petty, Council Member, MAP
- Shrinath Manoharan, Graduate Student Association

**Guest**

- Shalyn Sawa
- Therese Stecyk

**Join Zoom Meeting**

https://uregina-ca.zoom.us/j/99259997633?pwd=dGxLSUJ2UW9VTkorUERZTFFER1hVdz09

Meeting ID: 992 5999 7633

Passcode: 191735
COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
Minutes of the Meeting of
Thursday 11 February 2021
2:30 – 4:00 pm

Present:  I Al-Anbagi (Chair), R Blake, C Butz, Z Douai, J Farney, S Gray, S Hirani, L Hoeber, K McNutt, D Meban, S Manoharan, G Novotna, R Paranjape, S Petty, K Phillips, C Ramsay, N Reid, T Salm, B Schneider, L Watson, C Yost, S Zilles

Regrets:  J Wagner

Resource:  L Todd

Guests:  T Dahms, C Oriet

INTRODUCTIONS
Roundtable introductions were done for the new members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Blake/Novotna

Moved that the agenda be approved as presented.  CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 3, 2020
Ramsay/Blake

Moved that the minutes of December 3, 2020 be approved as presented.  CARRIED

CHAIR’S REPORT
Nothing to report at this time.

VP RESEARCH REPORT
K McNutt advised that a call for CRC’s went out and she asked everyone to work with the Research Office. A subcommittee of 3 tri-council leaders and 3 elected members will chose the chairs. K McNutt also advised that she held a town hall with the President of SSHRC and will be doing one with CIHR and NSERC.
INDIGENOUS RESEARCH SHOWCASE UPDATE
S Gray advised that KHS is doing an event on March 10; Pam will post the information to the website. An appeal will go out to all ADRs to let the Research Office know of any events they are planning and they will help promote them.

SSHRC-NSERC LEADERS MEETING DISCUSSION
K McNutt introduced T Dahms and provided some background information. T Dahms provided a short executive summary of the virtual joint annual SSHRC-NSERC meeting. The pandemic was the primary focus with other discussion on operationalizing EDI and new tri-council initiatives.

Additional discussion took place on the following:
- CFI portfolio; C Yost is the lead
- concern with relationship to space
- marry physical versus virtual research
- virtual forum space

CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS POLICY CHANGES
S Gray provided some background information to the revisions to Policy RCH-020-005. She advised they are minor wording changes in the normal course of policy updates. Discussion took place regarding additional wording changes.

Yost/McNutt
Moved that the Council Committee on Research approve the discussed changes to Policy RCH-020-005.

CARRIED

S Gray will provide an updated copy to L Todd for submission to Executive of Council. C Yost will present the policy revisions to Executive of Council.

POST COVID-19 RESEARCH RECOVERY DISCUSSION
Committee discussion took place on the following:
- senior CFI members mentoring junior members
- productivity and home-life responsibilities
- working on research productivity with EDI group
- inability of researchers to get to their data
- mental health footprint when COVID-19 is over
- how do we measure productivity and judge research?
- SSHRC section on special career circumstances
- campus-wide surveys / moodle site on research challenges
- extension requests and how to deal with them
- peer review process / campus merit committee
I Al-Anbagi suggested a subcommittee be formed to develop recommendations to CCR. The following individuals volunteered for the subcommittee:

I Al-Anbagi  Z Douai
G Novotna   N Reid
S Petty     S Hirani
S Manoharon

An initial meeting will be set up to develop the Terms of Reference and expectations of the subcommittee.

NEW BUSINESS
Remove the Ad-hoc Research Space Allocation Committee from the list.

ADJOURNMENT
G Novotna moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:44 pm
Proposal for Research Chair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Chair</th>
<th>Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Area</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Source</td>
<td>Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), held at the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitive Grant or Donation?</td>
<td>Competitive Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Start Date</td>
<td>January 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed End Date</td>
<td>December 31, 2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renewal Details</td>
<td>Single term</td>
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Rationale for Chair (e.g. potential impact, description of research environment, fit with Strategic Plan, growth area)

The Canada CIFAR AI Chairs program is the cornerstone of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research’s Pan-Canadian AI Strategy with a goal to recruit and retain the world’s leading AI researchers to Canada. The program provides long-term, dedicated research funding to support their research programs and help them train the next generation of AI leaders. They are based at Canada's three AI Institutes: Amii in Edmonton, Mila in Montreal, and Vector Institute in Toronto. This prestigious program includes 109 Canadian CIFAR AI Chairs advancing research in a range of fundamental and applied AI topics from drug discovery and machine learning for health, autonomous vehicles, materials discovery, human-AI interaction, natural language prediction, and more.

The University of Regina (UofR) and Faculty of Science provide an excellent institutional home for the CIFAR AI Affiliate Chair. The Department of Computer Science has faculty working in complementary areas of data mining, knowledge discovery and representation, and related topics. The opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration within the UofR are also excellent, cutting across biology, chemistry, psychology, mathematics, and others. Artificial Intelligence research fits very with the University’s strategic research plan, which identifies central research topics related to a Digital Futures theme. Further, it affords an opportunity to retain a high impact female professor in computer science which is of utmost importance to our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Chair Profile (e.g. eligibility and selection) Dr. Sandra Zilles was nominated by Amii to submit a proposal to CIFAR for assessment. Since 2009 Dr. Zilles has held a tenured, full-time, permanent academic appointment as a Professor and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Computational Learning Theory.

The Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence (AI) Chair provides a timely transition opportunity when Dr. Zilles’ final term as a Canada Research Chair ends in March 2022.

Budget and Funding
CIFAR provides $400,000 over 5 years to support research activities and salary stipend.
Support provided by the Faculty of Science follows. It does not represent new resources, but leverages existing commitments to Dr. Zilles’ Canada Research Chair activities:

- **Student/Research Staff Funding Support - $191,000 over 5 years.** The very fundamental work of Dr. Zilles’ research program on computational learning theory requires support mainly in terms of manpower. Committed funding will support one postdoctoral fellow, two doctoral and two master’s students in Year 1; and one postdoctoral fellow, one doctoral and one master’s student in Year 2. In Years 3-5, Dr. Zilles will have access to allocated graduate student support for approximately $12,000 per year to supplement support from her grant funding.

- **Collaboration and Travel Funding Support - $27,300 over 5 years.** Because of the collaborative nature of the research program and need to sustain Dr. Zilles’ research network, funding to support visitors, travel, and dissemination of research findings is of particular importance.

- **Facilities Infrastructure** – Dr. Zilles has a Computational Learning Theory Lab, which is 578 sq.ft, dedicated to research on the theoretical aspects of machine learning. It has ample space to provide bench space for trainees, room for group discussion and presentations, and quiet work areas. The Canada Foundation for Innovation and Innovation Saskatchewan supported its equipment purchase and upgrades. This is in addition to office space allocated in the Department of Computer Science.

- **Support from Existing Research Institutes** – Dr. Zilles’ proposed research is multidisciplinary and will benefit from support from facilities on campus. She has access to the Laboratory for Computational Discovery (local), the Regina Integrative Cognitive Experimentation Laboratory (local), and WestGrid (national).

- **Protected Research Time - $63,525** – Recognizing the need for the CIFAR AI Chair to focus on research and graduate student training, Dr. Zilles will be provided with a 50% reduction in teaching load, resulting in a teaching commitment of 1.5 classes on average per year.

- **Administrative Support** – The University and Faculty will provide the necessary accounting, administrative support, library services, and office supplies needed to support Dr. Zilles and trainees.

**Chair responsibilities and reporting**
The Chair reports to the Dean of Science and provides annual reporting on activities to CIFAR and Amii. She has proposed a 5-year program of research that has been reviewed and accepted by CIFAR.

**Process to date (e.g. discussions within department, Faculty, grant application process)**
The application submitted to CIFAR in March 2020 was approved for this prestigious research award on January 28, 2021. The related award agreement with Amii is under review.

Submitted by:

Douglas Farenick  
Dean of Science  
Date: 25 February 2021
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<td>Funding in Place</td>
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<td>Sent to CCR</td>
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