

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Minutes of the Meeting of
Thursday 3 December 2020
2:30 – 4:00 pm

Present: I Al-Anbagi (Chair), R Blake, C Butz, S Gray, A Henni, L Hoerber, S Manoharan, K McNutt, G Novotna, S Petty, C Ramsay, N Reid, T Salm, J Wagner, L Watson, C Winter, C Yost

Regrets: J Farney, F Freddolini, N Jones, D Meban, B Schneider, S Zilles

Resource: L Todd

Guests: D Farenick

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ramsay/Salm

Moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 8, 2020

Ramsay/Blake

Moved that the minutes from November 19, 2020 be approved with the correction of one minor typing error.

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REPORT

I Al-Anbagi asked if CCR needs to look at the Research and Risk Assessments again. It was pointed out that the applications were very conservative and we will continue to be vigilant in following the provincial health guidelines. Staying the course seems to be the appropriate action right now. It was suggested that a field-work message, with the restrictions still in place, be sent in the new year (include community based research).

VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH) REPORT

The Vice-President Research Report was distributed prior to the meeting. K McNutt stated that it is straight forward. She reviewed some research initiatives that are taking place and mentioned that work on the Research Strategic Plan would begin in spring 2021.

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH SHOWCASE UPDATE

S Gray advised of the Town Hall on December 2, an event in the Faculty of Education in September and a Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies event that is coming. A lot of activities are being organized by EDI.

K McNutt thanked S Gray and E Grafton for all the success in their efforts.

FEDORUK CHAIR IN NEUTRON IMAGING

D Farenick briefly reviewed the proposal for a Fedoruk Chair in Neutron Imaging and advised it is very similar to the Fedoruk Chair in Nuclear Imaging, which has been very successful. Discussion took place regarding junior level versus senior level chairs and attracting highly skilled physics faculty and students to the University.

McNutt/Ramsay

Moved that the Council Committee on Research approve, in principle, the proposal for an externally-funded Fedoruk Chair in Neutron Imaging.

CARRIED

TIER 1 CRC IN COMPUTATIONAL LEARNING THEORY

KcNutt provided some text on this proposal. D Farenick briefly review the proposal and advised they are looking specifically to recruit a self-identified female. Discussion took place on recruitment/retention of faculty, the University's policy on hiring family members, hiring other CRC Chairs and student enrolments.

McNutt/Watson

Moved that the Council Committee on Research approve the proposed change in the Faculty of Science's current Tier 1 CRC allocation from Water, Environment and Sustainability to that of Computational Learning Theory.

CARRIED

RESEARCH IMPACT SUBCOMMITTEE

I Al-Anbagi mentioned that an e-mail went out asking for volunteers. There were no volunteers that came forward. He suggested the subcommittee be made up of one elected member and two associate deans. K McNutt cautioned not to duplicate some of this work since M Stewart is also looking at community based research and will present to CCR in the new year. C Yost advised that he and R Deschamps are meeting with SciVal regarding impact measures. He suggested that we wait to see if there are gaps/issues before a subcommittee is formed.

RESEARCH SPACE ALLOCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

K McNutt advised that space issues start with the Deans and then proceed to the higher Space Allocation Committee, which includes the Vice-Presidents, so this would be a duplication of work.

Watson/Salm

Moved to dissolve the Research Space Allocation Subcommittee.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

R Blake asked CCR members how people are finding the connection between research and covid since individual researchers are dealing with work, families, etc. It was pointed out that the Risk Assessments should include physical and mental health issues. K McNutt advised that she asked Bridget Klest in the Department of Psychology to do some research on this and will hopefully have some information to share shortly. It was suggested that some type of mentorship program be established to help junior faculty members' deal with some of these issues. CCR to discuss this further at the January 2021 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

L Watson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 3:54 pm.