

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Minutes of the Meeting of
Monday, March 30, 2020
Zoom meeting

Present: C. Yost (Chair), K. McNutt, T. Grande, T.Salm, K. Irwin, D. Meban, L. Hoeber, F. Freddolini, S. Zilles, I. Al-Anbagi, S. Gray, S.Khan, S. Petty, M. Sanchez, J. Wagner, C. Butz, P. Streete, Y. Harrison, C. Bradley,

Resource: P. Splett (Research Office), recorder

Regrets: A. Miller, A. Henni, D. Moen, N. Jones, K. Rasmussen

1. Approval to record meeting for more detailed minutes.

2. Agenda - Discuss Research Continuity for graduate students.

Concerns:

- Thesis students close to the end of their program
- Need communications out for graduate students
- Grad Students worried and questioning if they need to pay tuition next semester if they are unable to get into the lab to complete research.
- Need a sense of how to help students and how we can have research continuity.
- We are not in a situation where we can close the doors on labs.
- Inconsistencies happening in terms of research
 - Some labs are still working – may not be in a safe manner
 - Research diversity
 - Many labs have been shut down

Questions:

- *What are we facing?*
- *How can we help graduate students do research for their program?*
- *What are some decision points we will need to get to quickly?*
- *We need to be responsive for the health and safety of student and researchers.*
- *How we can have research continuity?*

3. CCR Role in these concerns

Discussion

- Research continuity risk assessment
- Started with the critical research – animals/instrumentation that is expensive and cannot just be shut off.
- Physics lab helping Sask Health Authority by creating face masks with 3-D printer
- Helping to provide supplies and scientists to the Roy Romano Provincial Lab.
- Need consistent messaging about the policy around research infrastructure access, how it works.
- Provide a Risk Assessment form for labs
 - What circumstances can they work under
- Research Town Hall on April 1 9-11 am (Kathy McNutt)
- Graduate Student Town Hall March 31 (Nick Jones)
- Need to be aware of custodial staff safety.
- The risk assessment for lab/studio will be fairly assessed, but will lack equity due to diversity in risks as defined by the nature of the research.
-Risk for KIN research projects is higher as compared to a Science lab experiment.
- Library FAQ:
 - Library currently working a couple days a week to digitize materials requested.
 - Constraints due to copyright laws.
 - Activities in the research process to move forward to complete depending on the data collected.
- Offering support around publishing.
- Supports for graduate students working from home.
- Supports for international graduate students
- During this time, graduate students will be relying heavily on their supervisors.

4. Possible solutions

- Develop a risk assessment for labs.
- Offer tuition scholarships on a case-by-case basis.
- Tuition scholarship for one extra term that they were unable to finish research.
- Grant extensions for grad programs.
- Prioritize access to labs/studios to those students close to finishing program.

5. Actions:

- a) Revise Risk Assessment form to be more inclusive for all research.
 - Link to Risk Assessment
<https://www.uregina.ca/research/policies-forms-top/Research-Continuity-Request-Form.pdf>
 - Double layer approvals – Dean and VPR

- Needs to be very committed to Health & Safety Aspects
 - Feedback needed from faculty and CCR committee.
 - Are there specific questions missing?
- b) Develop a Risk Assessment for Lab to be inclusive (lab/studio)
- Double layer approvals – Dean and VPR
 - Needs to be very committed to Health & Safety Aspects
 - Will be shut down if rules are broken.
- c) Encourage taking computers home from campus to enable students who do not have technology at home.
- d) FAQ on library access targeted to graduate students.
- Subject librarians to look at all options for grad students to access content to meet their needs.
 - Zoom training session
 - Subject librarians to have office zoom hours.
 - Cara Bradley to work with Chidi for communication.
- e) Access to remote license servers to use software off campus. Follow-up with IT.
- f) Faculty of Graduate Studies to communication on support (life-work balance)

6. Graduate Student Scenarios

- a) Faculty of Media, Art and Performance.
- MAP is based on non-thesis grad programs which includes studio work.
 - All studios are shut down at this point.
 - 99% of graduate MAP students have come to a complete stop if they are unable to go in to the studio.
 - Can MAP students to go into studios one-at-a-time?
- b) Graduate students to defend soon.
- Need a clear statement on when fees are due, particularly for students defending. If student is unable to defend before April 30 due to COVID19, are they responsible to pay spring/summer tuition fees? Can extensions be granted?
- c) Faculty of Nursing
- Nursing students' graduation postponed for 6 months to a year. Need clear communication on tuition questions.
- d) Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies
- KHS has a wide range of research from historians to working in a lab. Some may be able to continue, however research dealing with human subjects will not be able to continue due to social distancing.
- e) May community based researchers have no other way to connect other than in person.

f) **Research Travel:**

Travel that is necessary to complete research program is dependent on Government decisions and restrictions. It could be months before travel is allowed.

g) **Humanities Research**

Humanities research relies on books, journals, publications. The library has access to digitized materials but not all. Not all books are e-books. There is info on National Emergency Library that has been put together in the USA that is accessible globally.

7. Other

- A “Research” tab to be created on U of R homepage under COVID 19
- CCR to meet weekly to provide advice and support to the VPR.
- Defence by zoom works well.

Adjournment