

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