

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Minutes of the Meeting of
January 13, 2016 (110.3 Paskwāw Tower)

Present: A.Volodin (Chair, Math/Stats), D.Candow (KI), D.McMartin (AVPAR), A.Eberlein (FGSR), J.Wagner (NU), M.Hampton (LU), S.Gray (Research Office), N.Onder (AR), D.Malloy (VPR), J.Longo (JSGSPP), C.Butz (SC), A.Henni (EN), C.Bradley (LI), C.Somers (CRC), A.Sterzuk (ED), C.Riegel (HRI), G.Donnely (NU), R.Camp (BU), M.Sanchez (SW)

Resource: J.Speed (Research Office), recorder

Regrets: A.Miller (FNUniv), K.Irwin (FA), J.Butt (GSA), A.Mudde (CA)

Visitors: R.Deschamps (Consultant, Research and Development)

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda

Wagner/Hampton - *moved approval of the agenda.*

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of September 21, 2015

Butz/Hampton – *moved approval of the minutes.*

CARRIED

4. Chair's Report (A.Volodin)

a. Update on Sub-Committee Members

- Research Impact Committee – Nilgun Onder has agreed to Chair this committee. Andrei asked for a short report from Nilgun at the next CCR meeting.
- Sub-sub-committee on Non-Traditional Research Impact – Chris Somers has agreed to serve on this committee. Somers and Marc Spooner met before Christmas. They have divided the faculties in half to evaluate how the faculties assess research impact and will synthesize results.
- Research Trust Fund Committee – Andrea Sterzuk has agreed to serve on this committee.
- Research Impact Ad-hoc group – Andrea Sterzuk has agreed to Chair this committee.

b. Representation of Associate Deans on CCR Subcommittees

- In the past, our subcommittee members have been CCR members and sometimes non-members. Especially for subcommittees that make grant decisions, having Associate Deans on the subcommittees ensures that decisions are made that align with our focus and direction as a university. Associate Deans also know what faculties can offer regarding resources.
- Members agreed that it would be beneficial to have a mix of CCR members and Associate Deans on committees to ensure that non-Associate Deans continue to get experience on subcommittees.
- This is not a requirement in the terms of reference.

5. VPR Report (D.Malloy)

Introduction of Raymond Deschamps, who will attend CCR meetings as required. Raymond talked about his role at the U of R and left the meeting.

a. Guidelines for VPR Discretionary Funds

- A transparent process for allocation of discretionary funds will be posted to the university website, along with the application form.
- VPR Discretionary Funds are for projects outside of the President's Fund or Cluster & Innovation Funding. Researchers submitting applications to granting agencies may request VPR funding if their proposal is accepted.

b. Guidelines for SaskPower Funding (NSE & SSH): Clean Energy Research Funding

- A new Clean Energy Research grant with a March 1 deadline has been launched. Requests will be adjudicated.
- The guidelines and application forms will be posted to the university website.
- It was noted that the SSH application form indicated \$5,000 maximum funding, however, this will be changed to \$10,000 before being posted to the website. Projects that exceed this amount will still be considered. There is no maximum value for the NSE application since equipment costs will typically be higher.

c. Cluster and Innovation Funding

- \$50,000 will be available for Cluster Funding and \$25,000 for the Innovation Fund, with deadlines in the 2016-17 year.

d. Internal Funding Eligibility for APT Researchers

- Seeking advice from CCR regarding eligibility of APT researchers to receive internal funding.
- There are three full time APT researchers at the university (Faculty of Science), so requests wouldn't be overwhelming.
- Discussed allowing all tri-council eligible staff to apply, however, SSHRC eligibility is rather open-ended. It is also necessary to consider that faculty members are required to do research and it is essential for their careers, so they should be given priority. APT researchers report to a faculty member who is eligible for funding. Commitment should be to faculty.
- CCR members felt that APT researchers should be considered eligible, although preference will be given to faculty. If this is not already covered by the terms of reference, they should be adjusted to indicate that APT staff are eligible, however, preference will be given to faculty. Language that is discouraging should be avoided.

e. Updates

- CFREF: Major proposal has been put together and we will hear this month as we have successfully moved on from the LOI stage. There is a March deadline, so the university will put all resources toward this. The grant sizes are expected to be much bigger this year.
- Strategic Research Plan: Committee is creating draft for university feedback. Raymond Deschamps will be instrumental in keeping this on track.

- Town Hall: Town Hall budget meeting on Jan 14. Research is doing well: we are up in contracts, grants, tri-council funding, and overall research funding considering a comparison to the previous four years. Graduate student numbers are also on the incline.
- Subcommittee on Lab Space Allocation: CCR previous had a Subcommittee on Lab Space Allocation. The subcommittee should re-group to discuss if there is a problem with lab space on campus, or if there is a problem with active lab space on campus. We need to ensure lab spaces are being used efficiently. Researchers do not own lab space, so we need criteria to evaluate whether or not the space is being used effectively. Some indicators may be publications, grad funding, and HQPs. We will need to communicate any changes in advance to ensure there is clear communication. Different faculties have different needs, however, there should be some general guidelines to govern the use of lab space. We could use the model of CFI-funded space, where space goes to the applicant, but is considered communal space that is shared with other researchers and then allows them to share resources as well. Another benefit to a large central lab would be hiring techs and support staff. Perhaps we need to figure out which labs could possibly be a part of this. We will consider putting together a subcommittee.

6. RTI Subcommittee Report (C. Butz)

- The Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) Grants subcommittee met in October 2015 and recommended five applications be forwarded to NSERC, in accordance with the University of Regina's quota of applications.

7. RTF Subcommittee Report (R. Camp)

- The Research Trust Fund Subcommittee met in November 2015 and recommended one application for funding.

8. Draft Policy on Research Chairs (D.McMartin)

- The Policy has already been seen and approved by CCR, but some revisions have been made based on feedback from Executive of Council, including responsibilities of executives, government requirements, and adding a statement under the policy about academic freedom that clearly indicates that this policy will not impact academic freedom.
- A typo was noted as appearing a couple times throughout the document.
Wagner/Camp - *moved to recommend the Policy to Executive of Council for consideration*

CARRIED

9. Other Business

- None.

10. Adjournment

Hampton – moved to adjourn.

CARRIED