

Planning and Research Committee
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Room AA5014, and via Webex

A meeting of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Planning and Research Committee was held Thursday, January 19, 2023, 9:30 a.m. The following members were in attendance:

V. Forbes, Archaeology	Bruce Marsh, MUNSU	C. Thorne, Folklore
J. Geck, English	M. Milner, GFO	K. Totten, Folklore
G. Kundhi, Economics	L. Swiss, Dean's Office	N. Welch, Linguistics

Guest: Dr. T. Allen, Acting VP Research

The meeting was called to order by C. Thorne who returned as Committee Chair. He stated he was unable to participate during previous term due to a scheduling conflict. He thanked J. Geck for his role as Interim Chair. An introduction was made around the table for the benefit of Bruce Marsh, newly appointed MUNSU representative. Special Guest Dr. Tana Allen, Acting VP Research, was also introduced.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was approved as presented.
(Moved/Seconded: V. Forbes/N. Welch) Carried.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting for December 15, 2022 were approved as presented.
(Moved/Seconded: J. Geck/N. Welch) Carried.

3. Guest – Acting VP Research, Dr. T. Allen

Dr. Allen opened with an overview of their thoughts on HSS within the wider university community and what this committee can do to promote the Faculty and its research. They acknowledged HSS has a robust research environment, but that is not well known outside of HSS. They provided information on what they are doing at the VPR Office in promoting HSS. The Research Strategy is being worked and the criteria for the SEED, Bridge Multidisciplinary Fund is being reviewed for possible expansion. They are also promoting a greater focus be placed on people doing research and not associated monetary values.

Discussion and an exchange of ideas followed including the following:

- The need to clarify and identify what constitutes “research” and the importance that research informs teaching and impacts curriculum
- Promotion and communication that all research is important whether funded or non-funded
- HSS as a large and diverse faculty may require a more united approach for research with regard to promotion, communication, outreach, and community engagement
- Can we adapt for HSS what other faculties may be doing well in communications and promotion of research?

Challenges identified include: lack of time for research vs teaching loads, funding and personnel resources, administrative tasks, internal and external communication issues, and the diversity of HSS with many areas of focus – a more focused direction or themes may help elevate to the wider community the research happening at HSS.

It was noted that the Dean's Office is receiving annual reports from departments, and these can be used as a communication/promotional tool for research. HSS will soon have a second Communications Advisor to help in the area of promotion, media sharing and internal and external communications of HSS research. The HSS website is being re-designed, which is a great opportunity to include research information and researcher profiles. The Research Catalyst Award has been initiated by the Dean's Office as an assist with funding.

Due to time constraints (and previous commitments for some committee members), the meeting was brought to a close. A Special Meeting will be coordinated for week of Jan 23-27 to continue with Agenda items 4-11. Specific date and time will be advised.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting: Special Meeting week of Jan 23-27, date/time to be advised

Post meeting note:

Special Meeting of PRC scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2:00 p.m.