Consultation Frequently Asked Questions

University Centres: Establishment, Operation and Termination

Feedback can be sent to Policy@Mun.ca

Why is this policy being developed?

The current policy addresses only the establishment of University Centres. Once a centre has been established there is no formal mechanism or guiding policy to ensure that Centres that bear the University's name and logo are active, are acting in accordance with the overall strategic direction of the University, still require institutional support (e.g. space, in-kind support, financing), and are not creating risk to the University.

Are buildings or physical spaces with “Centre” in their name included under the University Centres Policy?

No. This policy does not apply to cases where the word “Centre” is solely applied to a building or physical space. Examples include the Inco Innovation Centre and the University Centre.

What does “Centre” mean in this policy?

For the purposes of this document “Centre” refers to formally organized groups of individuals, which may include distinguished groups, centres, institutes, centres-of-excellence and similar organizational constructs that are not separately incorporated (and therefore covered by the Affiliations section of the Act) and evoke a specific association with Memorial University.

Who is responsible for oversight of this policy?

Vice-Presidents Council oversees the application of the University Centres policy. The process for establishing a Centre requires endorsement by Unit Head, Dean, Senate, and Vice-Presidents Council. Once an application is endorsed by the Dean of the relevant school or faculty, it will be submitted to Vice-Presidents Council which will bring the application to the University Planning and Budget Committee for review and to the Board of Regents for Approval.
How is the assigned Vice President determined for each centre?

Centre proponents may identify the Centre type (Education or Research) and the Vice-President deemed most appropriate for oversight; however, Vice-Presidents Council is responsible for making the final determination of type and assigned Vice-President.

What is the difference between an “Educational” Centre and a “Research Centre”? Who determines which it is?

The key distinction is between those Centres that are deemed to be engaged in academic research. Centres that are involved in the pursuit, creation and dissemination of research require specific oversight by the Vice-President (Research). The Vice-President (Research) makes the determination if a Centre constitutes a Research Centre and typically would have oversight responsibility for it. All other Centres would be considered “Educational” – administrative oversight would be determined by Vice-Presidents Council based on the details of the proposal.