

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**  
**MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH**  
**Monday, January 15, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Research (SCOR) was held virtually, via WebEx Meeting, on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei  
Dr. Benjamin Barootes  
Dr. Anne Burke  
Dr. Lindsay Cahill  
Dr. Bing Chen  
Dr. Rochelle Côté  
Mr. Cyr Couturier  
Dr. Zahra Farahnak  
Dr. Colin Farquharson  
Ms. Alison Farrell, Delegate for University Librarian  
Dr. Lesley James  
Dr. Anges Juhasz-Ormsby  
Dr. Pavan Kakumani  
Dr. Edward Kendall  
Dr. Erika Merschrod  
Mr. David Miller  
Ms. Marie Murphy  
Mr. Ryan Murphy  
Dr. Giwa Sulaimon  
Dr. Heloise Therien-Aubin  
Dr. Amy Warren  
Dr. Benjamin Zendel

**Regrets:**

Mr. Enoma Aruevbose  
Dr. Mumtaz Cheema  
Mr. John Harris  
Dr. Emmanuel Haven  
Dr. Kathleen Hodgkinson  
Dr. Pierre LeBlanc  
Saanvi Saxena  
Dr. Kirby Shannahan

**By Invitation:**

Ms. Ellen Steinhauer

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked for approval of the agenda

**Motion 1:** To approve the agenda for the January 15, 2024 meeting.

First: Dr. Bing Chen

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Second: Dr. Rochelle Côté

All members present voted and the motion was carried.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 27, 2023 MEETING**

The Chair asked for approval of the minutes of the November 27, 2023 meeting

**Motion 2:** To approved the minutes of the November 27, 2023 meeting as is.

First: Dr. Erika Merschrod

Second: Ms. Alison Farrell

Motion was carried.

**3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS**

The Chair stated that the Annual Plan and Work Plan have been submitted to Senate.

**4. STATUS OF PAOR AND URP COMMITTEES FOR 2024 (MS. ELLEN STEINHAUER)**

The Chair introduced Ms. Ellen Steinhauer from the Vice-President Research office. Ms. Steinhauer stated that she is responsible for the internal research awards both the President's Award for Outstanding Research (PAOR) as well as the University Research Professor (URP). The deadlines for those awards is November 30<sup>th</sup> normally. This year, the deadlines were pushed to January 31<sup>st</sup> in anticipation of updating the terms of reference. Ms. Steinhauer said that unfortunately, they were unable to get approvals in place in time, but have kept the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline and will be using the terms of reference that has been in place now for a few years. Ms. Steinhauer also stated that changes have been made to Tri-Council funding applications. She said that they are encouraging candidates to provide some input on how they consider EDI in their research activity or other professional activities. They are also encouraging candidates to include career interruptions and how that has affected their research productivity. She said that once this has been finalized and recommendations have been received, they would then present it to SCOR and they will be using it for the next round.

Ms. Steinhauer said that once the candidates for the two awards are received, it is her responsibility to put together selection committees each year for adjudication. She explained that for her process, she first looks at who the candidates are and where they are coming from. The faculty of the department the candidate is from is automatically eliminated from possibly being on the committee because of conflicts of interest. She said that she then looks at other departments and tries to find people who can reasonably review a nomination. People who can provide some help to find external references and finally she looks at it in terms of diversity. She said she tries to make sure that there is an equal representation of men and women and that all campuses are included.

Ms. Steinhauer then said that they come to SCOR to have committee members act as an observer – one member for each award. She said that they ask the committee members to do unconscious bias training, which is offered by the CRTC (Canada Research Chair program). She said that she and Dr. Banahene Adjei, to whom she reports, have talked about what other types of training can be offered to the committee. She asked that if the committee had any suggestions as to this, to please let her know.

**5. STATUS OF RESEARCH FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (VPR)**

Dr. Banahene Adjei said that the VPR's office had some updates but that they are just at the initial stage of putting things together and are hoping that by the next meeting of SCOR on March 25<sup>th</sup> they

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will be able to have something more substantial to report back. He said that since the Research Strategy was approved by the Senate, one of the things that they have done is put together a working group and that the essence of the working group is that they want to be very intentional in terms of visiting various deans and directors to hear their thoughts about the research strategy. In particular, how each unit sees themselves within their strategy and also how they want the strategy to reflect in the everyday operations. He said that the VPRO will be visiting each team and will have a couple of questions that have been put together and will they will then bring the summary of the information they receive back to the working group. They will then bring a report back to SCOR.

**6. RESEARCH POLICY UPDATES (VPR)**

Dr. Banahene Adjei said that Dr. Gosine is taking the lead on this project and that again, they will be able to provide an update at the next SCOR meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Murphy expressed his concern that with the IT disruption at Grenfell campus deadlines may be affected and he wondered how this would be handled by the Research office. Mr. Miller assured him that the Research office has been working with various people in the research office at Grenfell and asked that anyone who has an upcoming deadline to please get the information to RIS. He said that they have already committed, as an office, to ask for external sponsor deadline extensions.

Dr. Côté spoke about having a cross-faculty conversation around the morale of research on campus and what could be done to help improve the atmosphere to encourage research activities.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.



Mr. Cyr Couturier, Chair

Mr. David Miller, Executive Secretary