

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
Monday, March 25, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Research (SCOR) was held virtually, via WebEx Meeting, on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Dr. Tana Allen
Dr. Benjamin Barootes
Dr. Anne Burke
Dr. Lindsay Cahill
Dr. Bing Chen
Mr. Cyr Couturier
Dr. Colin Farquharson
Dr. Sulaimon Giwa
Ms. Heather Harris
Dr. Kathleen Hodgkinson
Dr. Anges Juhasz-Ormsby
Dr. Pavan Kakumani
Dr. Edward Kendall
Dr. Erika Merschrod
Mr. David Miller
Mr. Ryan Murphy
Dr. Heloise Therien-Aubin
Dr. Amy Warren
Dr. Benjamin Zendel

Regrets:

Mr. Enoma Aruevbose
Dr. Mumtaz Cheema
Dr. Rochelle Côté
Dr. Zahra Farahnak
Ms. Alison Farrell, Delegate for University Librarian
Mr. John Harris
Dr. Emmanuel Haven
Dr. Lesley James
Dr. Pierre LeBlanc
Ms. Marie Murphy
Saanvi Saxena
Dr. Kirby Shannahan

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair asked for approval of the agenda

Motion 1: To approve the agenda for the March 25, 2024 meeting.

First: Dr. Agnes Juhasz-Ormsby

Second: Dr. Benjamin Barootes

All members present voted and the motion was carried.

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2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January 15, 2024 MEETING

The Chair asked for approval of the minutes of the January 15, 2024 meeting.

Dr. Allen noted that she had some changes that she would forward on to Miss Murphy.

Motion 2: To approved the minutes of the January 15, 2024 meeting with changes from Dr. Allen.

First: Dr. Benjamin Barootes

Second: Dr. Edward Kendall

3. STATUS OF RESEARCH STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (VPR)

Dr. Banahene Adjei gave an update on what the plan was when he attended the last meeting. Work continues and 6 units have been engaged to date with 8 more units scheduled. All input and feedback will be factored into the rollout an implementation plan for research strategy at the beginning of September. SCOR will be engaged.

Action Item: Dr. Allen to circulate the questions to the members of the Committee

4. RESEARCH POLICY UPDATES(VPR)

The Chair mentioned that most of the research policies have not been updated in 7 or 8 years and he was wondering if the VPR might have an idea of when that process would be starting.

There are approximately 13 research policies that are connected to the office, some of them are actually owned by the President's Office, and some are closely integrated with research activities so the VPR's office tends to oversee them. To avoid overload 2 policies are being updated at a time, and the first two are Integrity in Scholarly Research (which is owned by the President's Office) and Reallocation, Renewal and Reduction of Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) at Memorial University. These two are already in their "pre-consultation phase" and a revised draft will be created and that will be open for public consultation. Any changes will be worked in before coming to SCOR, and then brought to Senate. Dr. Gosine is continuing to lead the policy review and Ms. Karen Follett is the Policy Advisor with the VPR's office and is working on this with Dr. Gosine.

5. REPORT FROM RIS ON RESEARCH FUNDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DISCUSSION (Mr. Miller)

External research funding to Memorial continues to be strong and can be found annually in the Fact Book tables research tables. The most recent data is for fiscal 2022/23 but these tables will be updated in the fall when CIAP publishes the 2023/24 Fact Boo.

Tri-Agency numbers were up fairly significantly, having passed the \$30M level, and they have been rising steadily for the past decade.

One of the things that has turned around in recent years is funding from the province. We went through a decade of decreasing funding from the province towards research but that seems to have bottomed out in 2019/2020 fiscal year and has been slowing increasing. Last year we were back up to \$11.8M.

This report should be moved to a meeting late in the fall, right after the fact book tables come out.

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6. OFFICE OF RESEARCH PAOR/URP PROCESS

Ms. Steinhauer provided the following update to the Committee:

“...the competitions are now closed and I am working to form the adjudication committee's for both the URP and PAOR award opportunities. I will be reaching out to the SCOR chair and co-chair to meet and discuss committee selection and next steps.

The Chair did say that there was talk of changing the criteria as it can be hard for the adjudicating committees to evaluate colleagues within the academy, especially if they don't have a background in their particular area.

7. DISCUSSION OF MORALE ISSUES (Dr. Côté)

Though Dr. Côté was unable to attend the meeting, there was a general discussion on issues surround morale among researchers and faculty at the university. The main points of the discussion centered around the amount of administration work that researchers are expected to provide which takes away time from their research as well as a feeling of disconnect with Senior Administration of the University.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.



Mr. Cyr Couturier, Chair

Mr. David Miller, Executive Secretary