



SENATE COMMITTEE on RESEARCH
MINUTES

Friday, June 6, 2025
2:00 pm NT | [Microsoft Teams](#)

CHAIR

Dr. Lindsay Cahill

Co-CHAIR

Dr. Lesley James

SECRETARY

Mr. David Miller

PRESENT

Dr. T. Allen

Dr. M. Cheema

Dr. B. Chen

Dr. R. Côté

Dr. A. Craig

Ms. A. Farrell (*Delegate for University Librarian*)

Dr. Z. Farahnak

Dr. C. Farquharson

Dr. E. Haven

RECORDING

Ms. M. Murphy

Dr. A. Juhasz-Ormsby

Dr. P. Kakumani

Dr. E. Kendall

Mr. R. Murphy

Dr. H. Therien-Aubin

ABSENT

Dr. B. Barootes

Dr. A. Burke

Dr. L. Cahill

Mr. N. Keough

Dr. P. LeBlanc

Dr. E. Merschrod

Mr. V. Nwogo

Dr. A. Warren

Dr. L. James delivered the Land Acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

1.1 Meeting of June 6, 2025

A draft agenda for the meeting was circulated on June 4, 2025.

MOTION B. Chen/A. Craig

RESOLVED that the agenda be approved as circulated.

No discussion.

CARRIED

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

2.1 Meeting of March 21, 2025

A draft of the minutes for the meeting of March 21, 2025 was circulated on June 4, 2025.

MOTION B. Chen/ A. Farrell

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved with the change that A. Farrell was in attendance.

A. Craig abstained.

No discussion.

CARRIED

3.0 New Business

3.1 Update about President's Award for Outstanding Research and University Research Professor

Dr. James gave an update about these awards. She mentioned that both committees have been struck and applicants are out for external review. She said they expect the external reviews to be back over the summer. With regards to the President's Award for Outstanding Research, Dr. Allen said that there has been some work to revise the JLP awards and so, at the moment, they haven't been opened yet.

3.2 Update about faculty survey on Memorial's Research Ecosystem.

Dr. Côté told the Committee that she did a presentation to the Research IT Committee, which includes the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). She said she thought it was a good opportunity to talk about some of the good things that are happening with computing, but also to speak about a lot of issues that faculty members are having in terms of being able to get what they need in terms of IT support, computing resources just to be able to do the research that they want/need to be doing as part of their jobs here at MUN. She said she thought the OCIO was a bit taken aback with some of the comments but that she tried to be as judicious as she could and brought in some of the survey findings. Overall, she said it was good to give some of the qualitative feedback to enrich what the actual numbers were saying

Dr. Côté then said that herself, Dr. Cahill, Ms. Farrell and Mr. Murphy have formed a subcommittee to be able to start developing a report off of the research survey, which they are judiciously working on and trying to develop. She said their thoughts are to have the report ready in draft form by the end of July in the hopes of being able to get the report out for the start of the new president's tenure.

Dr. Côté also said that there is also a potential conversation scheduled with the grant facilitators as there was an expression of interest from them in terms of having a conversation about what the findings of the survey could do in terms of informing the way they go about their jobs as well.

There then followed a discussion by the committee that centered around the Research IT Committee that was formed under the IT Governance Framework. Mr. Miller said that the IT Research Committee was formed to be the overarching committee that would collect information and feedback any discussion from faculty members and feed it up to the IT Governance Structure. He said that his position was put in as Chair at the time when it was rolled out and that he has continued to Chair that committee to date. He said that unfortunately, the IT Governance Framework itself has been somewhat modified since then meaning that while the other committees that are under the IT Governance Framework, which are largely Memorial business spaces, excluding research now report up to a very small group of PEC. They chose to exclude the Chair of the Research IT Committee from a direct seat at the table so now, the only way the information from the Research IT Committee can get to the Vice Presidents is by Mr. Miller feeding it to the VPR and then having the VPR feed it up to the other Vice Presidents.

Dr. Allen said that it would be very helpful if this committee pushed that a bit as she is not particularly satisfied with the way that it is functioning and would like this committee to be able to push forward a change in that, to add more weight. She said she would recommend a review and then send forward a recommendation. Mr. Miller countered that instead of doing a review, if this committee could simply write a memo insisting that the Chair of Research IT Committee be added back into the IT Governance meetings.

Further discussion ensued and the following links were discussed:

<https://www.mun.ca/cio/governance-and-collaboration/committees/research-it-committee/>

<https://www.mun.ca/cio/governance-and-collaboration/committees/>
Committees & Council | Office of the Chief Information Officer

Presentation from Dr. Côté

[IT Governance and Collaboration Framework | Office of the Chief Information Officer | Memorial University of Newfoundland](#)

MOTION E. Kendall/ B. Chen

RESOLVED that a letter recommending that the Chair of the Research IT Committee be a member of the IT Governance and Collaboration Council be drafted and send to the VPR.

No discussion.

CARRIED

3.3 OCIO's actions and stated future actions

Dr. Farquharson was satisfied that this was discussed enough in the previous item.

3.4 SCOR Subcommittee response to Research Involving Indigenous Groups (RIIG) policy

Dr. Côté said that the subcommittee drafted a letter for inclusion as a response to the continuously evolving RIIG policy and it was submitted to the Interim Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Research). Dr. Allen said that the RIIG Policy was, in fact, approved by the Board in its March meeting but that the letter was still very useful and she thanked the subcommittee for the response provided.

3.5 Discussion of workplan for 2025-2026

A few items were discussed to add to the workplan:

- To keep an eye out for other issues where we could do the same kind of research that Dr. Côté did and then contribute overall to the Senate discussions
- To figure out how to communicate the findings of Dr. Côté's report
- To circulate last year's workplan ahead of the next meeting and suggest edits

4.0 Other Business

This was Mr. Miller's last meeting as he will be retiring in September. Dr. James said that it had been a pleasure working with Mr. Miller over the years. She thanked him for all he has done for Memorial and the Research Community.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.