

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**  
**MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH**  
**Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 2:00 p.m.**

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Research (SCOR) was held virtually, via WebEx Meeting, on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

Dr. Svetlana Barkanova  
Dr. Neil Bose  
Dr. Anne Burke  
Mr. Cyr Couturier  
Ms. Alison Farrell  
Dr. Sulaimon Giwa  
Dr. Emmanuel Haven  
Dr. Kathleen Hodgkinson  
Dr. Edward Kendall  
Mr. David Miller  
Ms. Marie Murphy  
Dr. Kirby Shannahan  
Dr. Kim Welford  
Dr. Benjamin Zendell

**Regrets:**

Dr. Meghan Burchell  
Dr. Mumtaz Cheema  
Dr. Bing Chen  
Dr. Chris Kozak  
Dr. Roza Tchoukaleyska

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair asked for approval of the agenda.

**Motion 1:** To approve the agenda for the May 24, 2022 meeting.

First: Dr. Edward Kendall  
Second: Dr. Benjamin Zendell

All members present voted and the motion was carried.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2022 MEETING**

The Chair asked for approval of the minutes of the March 29, 2022 meeting.

**Motion 2:** To approve the minutes of the March 29, 2022 meeting as is.

First: Dr. Benjamin Zendell  
Second: Dr. Kim Welford

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**3. UPDATE ON STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN – Dr. Bose**

Dr. Bose reviewed the process that this draft document has undertaken and where it is now, in the process. He said that the document is currently with the working group for revisions and has not yet gone back out for a second round of feedback. It will come to SCOR as soon as it is ready and typically, would be endorsed by SCOR before going on to the Senate. Some member expressed concern that they had yet to see the document and were reminded that the document can be found online here: [https://www.mun.ca/research/explore/Research\\_Strategy\\_Oct\\_2021.pdf](https://www.mun.ca/research/explore/Research_Strategy_Oct_2021.pdf).

**4. DISCUSSION ON VPR AND COMMUNICATIONS – Dr. Bose**

The Chair spoke to a lack of communications from the VPR office to faculties and from within faculties to researchers during the Pandemic, which was raised at the last meeting, and asked Dr. Bose if he had looked into this and if there was a way to improve communications within the research units and across the board. Dr. Bose stated that communicating across the university is something he considered extremely important and said that he understands that no matter how much is done, there could always be more. He then went on to let the committee know what he has implemented since he has been at the university:

- Brown bag lunches with different departments and faculties
- Doing more through consultations; a good example of which is the Technology Transfer office which does multiple sessions across the University so that researchers can get input and information on things at various times
- Regular meetings with the Deans as well as visits to the campus (ie Grenfell and Labrador)

Dr. Bose also mentioned that since the pandemic the dissemination of information online has increased and was sent out rapidly over Newsline so as not to weigh down email.

**5. UPDATE ON RESEARCH PORTAL – Mr. David Miller**

Mr. Miller said that the vendor has encountered some significant challenges much of which is pandemic related. They are trying to expand their market substantially and rollout across Canada and other places and they have run out of programmer capacity. They are, at this point, unable to deliver the product that was promised a year ago. Mr. Miller said that we are looking at 2024 go live for Ethics. He said that Animal Care is looking like it will be the first to go live this year.

**6. UPDATE ON TRICOUNCIL FUNDING AND TRENDS – Mr. David Miller**

Mr. Miller stated that the University fared really well through Covid. Research numbers climbed steadily and the tri-agency numbers also climbed. He said that he just received some preliminary results and it is looking like a very small gain over last year as well. Mr. Miller said that we are up 46% from 2013 which is not bad as there is a limited pool for tricouncil money available and all universities are trying to get more out of it. He also said that the number of research funding applications has been declining since 2017 and seems to be back in the more normal range (around 1500 grant applications vs. 1700). Mr. Miller said that it is also important to remember that there are a lot of researches on campus who are not represented in the statistics from his office. A lot of people doing research and scholarly activity that do not need a lot of, or in some cases any, funding and therefore are not generating metrics through research services.

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**7. OTHER**

The Chair asked for another meeting in mid-June to sort out the report to be sent to Senate.

**8. ADJOURNEMENT**

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

Mr. Cyr Couturier, Chair

Mr. David Miller, Executive Secretary