

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Research (SCOR) was held virtually, via WebEx Meeting, on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Dr. Tana Allen
Dr. Svetlana Barkanova
Dr. Meghan Burchell
Mr. Ken Carter
Mr. Cyr Couturier (Chair)
Ms. Alison Farrell
Dr. Sulaimon Giwa
Dr. Edward Kendall
Dr. Pierre LeBlanc
Mr. David Miller
Ms. Marie Murphy
Dr. Kim Welford (Vice-chair)
Dr. Benjamin Zendel

Regrets:

Dr. Paul Banahene Adjei
Dr. Anne Burke
Dr. Steve Carr
Dr. Kathleen Hodgkinson
Dr. Kirby Shannahan

1. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed Dr. Pierre LeBlanc to the Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion 1: To approve the agenda for the November 15, 2022 meeting.

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

All members present voted and the motion was carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2022 MEETING

The Chair asked for approval of the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting.

Motion 2: To approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting as is.

First: Dr. Kim Welford
Second: Dr. Meghan Burchell

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All members present voted and the motion was carried.

4. REVIEW OF SCOR WORKPLAN FOR 2022-2023

The Chair sent the members the SCOR Report to Senate which included the proposed workplan for 2022-2023 as detailed below:

- Call for student, post-doctoral and faculty participation in SCOR
- Engage with and receive update on implementation of the Indigenous Research Policy
- Review final Strategic Research Framework 2022-2026
- Implement PAOR and URP process early in 2023
- Brainstorm solutions for the communications gaps that exist within the research community

5. UPDATE ON STRATEGIC RESEARCH FRAMEWORK 2022-2026 (DR. ALLEN)

Dr. Allen said that they are working on getting a better and revised strategic framework for research and in that regards have hired Ms. Karen Follett as a policy analyst. Ms. Follett has been working to make sure that the research strategy serves the needs of the research community and Dr. Allen said that means an aspirational document that answers to the need for the agencies who require research strategies and proposals to be in alignment with institutional strategies. She said they will bring a draft to this committee in due course. Dr. Allen also said that some of the feedback they heard in the consultation process was that the document wasn't strategic enough so they are really trying to ensure that it speaks to the strategic needs of our institution at Memorial and across all the campuses, and one that aligns with the "Transforming Our Horizons" strategic plan of Memorial University.

6. UPDATE ON RESEARCH IMPACTING INDIGENOUS GROUPS POLICY REVIEW (Mr. Miller)

Mr. Miller stated that he had been accompanying Dr. Adjei meeting external Indigenous groups and that they have met with most groups on the Island. They have one more to do on the south west, and that trip is booked, with a trip to Conne River will follow soon. They also have a trip to Labrador which is booked in the next few weeks. He said he cannot speak to how many meetings Dr. Adjei has had on campus, but he does believe it has been a lot. He also said that feedback is pouring in, and that they will be utilizing the services of Ms. Follett to help collate that feedback as well as they move forward with this review of the RIIG Policy

Mr. Miller stated that when the policy was formed it was recognized as rather groundbreaking, not just at Memorial, but across the country. In recognition of that it was acknowledged that Memorial would have a shorter period between implementing the policy and its first review than is normal for university policies. He said there was an expectation that the university would gather valuable experience and feedback during the initial implementation and then do a quick review – but that it was planned that way from the beginning.

Mr. Miller said that he expects the document will follow the same route as the original policy in that it will come to this committee looking for endorsement before going to Senate.

7. REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

Dr. Kendall said that this might be a theoretical consideration. He said that at the moment, all research centres are required to submit an annual performance document and those documents are reviewed at the Planning and Budget Committee. He said that this requirement is a new requirement and so the

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Planning and Budget Committee has really only reviewed what were the larger research centres in the University, but now all of them are up for review. At least all of them that want to stay with the title Research Centres, have to submit these reports. He said that the question that has come up at the Planning and Budget Committee is whether or not it is the correct body to be reviewing these or should this be reviewed by SCOR, since the bulk of these Centres are Research Centres.

Dr. Kendall also said that the consideration is that this is information is research going on at the University and it would be a significant amount of information for this committee as this committee is considering policies in the future. Dr. Kendall said that each Research Centre is required to submit a foundational document that includes their plans with milestones. He said that the Committee would be tasked with looking at whether or not these milestones were accomplished and that what is being done is in close alignment with the University's overall strategic research framework. He also said that he didn't want to make light of the work, which will mean that the frequency of this committee meetings will probably increase to monthly all year. At the moment, the review on which groups are formal Centres and which are not is being undertaken, in accordance with Memorial's policies on Centres, and likely this will be whittled down from 60 to about 30 such Centres by next spring.

SCOR members discussed whether this would be too onerous for the Committee to undertake, and that this currently does not fit under its mandate and Terms of Reference. If an evaluation template was provided to benchmark performance reports against the Strategic Research Framework (which has yet to be defined) and University Strategic Plan it might be feasible. Some concerns were expressed that peer review of the Centres by colleagues, might be an issue.

It was decided that Dr. Kendall would send members the Centres policy and the Annual reporting template as approved by PBC (attached herein)

8. OTHER

The Chair brought up that he would like to have a brainstorming session for communications among the research community during the next meeting and Dr. Barkanova asked to be invited back for this as today was her last meeting with SCOR.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Cyr Couturier, Chair

Mr. David Miller, Executive Secretary