



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, April 9, 2020

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MS Teams

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES		
<b>Present: Quorum = 7 voting members</b>		<b>Non-voting</b>
Deepak Gupta Elizabeth Worobec Deborah Henderson Philomena Kaan Daniel Bernstein Rajiv Jhangiani	Sundeep Varaich Victor Martinez Paul Ohler Diane Purvey Wei Li Mandeep Pannu Karen Meijer-Kline	David Burns (Chair)
<b>Regrets:</b>	<b>Senate Office</b>	<b>Guests:</b>
	Meredith Laird	Chris Burns Jennifer Hardwick Amy Jeon Layne Mayhre

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Add item Research Ethics Board Report from Dr. Dastur.

**Rajiv Jhangiani moved the agenda be confirmed as amended.**

**The motion carried.**

**3. Approval of Minutes, March 12, 2020**

**Daniel Bernstein moved the minutes be accepted as presented.**

**The motion carried.**

**4. Items Arising from the Minutes**

Dr. Burns to invite Dr. Hardwick and to contact Dr. Purvey.

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## 5. Election of Chair

Dr. Burns informed the committee that Senate has permitted this committee to elect a chair who is not a senator, and that the chair's term would commence immediately and is for 3 years, ending August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Dr. Burns called for nominations for the position of Chair from the floor.

First call: no nominations.

Second call: Philomena Kaan nominated Daniel Bernstein. Dr. Bernstein accepted the nomination.

Third call: no nominations.

Dr. Daniel Bernstein was acclaimed as Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies and accepted the congratulations of the committee.

## 6. Chair's Report

No report.

## 7. AVP, Research's Report (Apr 2020)

The committee received the written report from the AVP, Research. Dr. Gupta noted that the most recent meeting of the committee took place prior to the physical distancing measures required by the Minister of Health in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. He advised the committee that the Office of Research Services has been operating remotely. Dr. Gupta informed the committee that Mr. James McCartney will be joining ORS this fiscal year and will bring a rich background in research and innovation. Among his previous appointments were a role at BCIT and he therefore has a background in the polytechnic context. Will be moving as senior manager, and might be invited to a future meeting. Dr. Gupta updated the committee that a general announcement is forthcoming to confirm that there will be no cost extension approvals to internal grants. New funding calls from both provincial and federal agencies are expected and information will be provided to the Deans, including funds to cover for faculty release costs. Many students are experiencing difficulties with their jobs and other earning opportunities being deferred or cancelled, so ORS is working to support students with the means at its disposal and hoping to channel KPU's capacity to address COVID challenges. Dr. Gupta especially thanked Dr. Jhangiani for his role in assisting Dr. McCartney to join the work of the group before his official start date.

## 8. Items for Discussion

### 8.1. SSHRC Connection Grant Award

Jennifer Hardwick informed the committee she has been the recipient of SSHRC connections grants since November of 2018. The purpose of the SSHRC Reconciliation Grant is to support research work with indigenous community. She informed the committee about her work with Virago Nation, a local indigenous burlesque collective which seeks to re-matriate sexuality and address harmful stereotypes of women and two-spirit people. She was required to report to the Tri-Council about methodologies in this research, and encountered barriers to holding events with community groups on campus. She shared with the committee that she found current KPU financial policies are paperwork-intensive and create challenges in ensuring individuals and groups could be paid in a

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timely manner. This caused special problems for the protocol to work with Indigenous groups, who request payment prior to the event and in amounts that might be higher than \$250 or \$500, given the fee structure for Canadian artists through CARFAC. The typical waiting period of 3 to 6 weeks created real difficulties in this work. She shared her sense that current Finance and Risk and Facilities at KPU are not as up to date as they could be to understand and support these sorts of events. Other barriers included the requirement for high levels of liability insurance, because research a partnership is not categorized as a business partnership. She shared with the committee that the volume of correspondence required to manage these details included over 700 emails, primarily because KPU doesn't have established policies and processes. She stated that having these conversations within this committee would be very helpful to enable community access to KPU. She offered to the committee to share her experience, provide a memo, train staff and help develop protocols around working with community that would be helpful.

The committee thanked Dr. Hardwick for her insights, discussed payment of research partners, events and meetings on campus, and liability. Dr. Gupta shared with the committee that provincial and federal requirements differ and this makes it onerous and difficult for researchers. Other universities also deal with this and have had more time to solve some of these issues. KPU is currently experiencing a deficit of systems and processes that are built over years and suggested that a guideline document - not as formal as a policy but more similar to a memorandum of understanding - could be helpful in the short term.

The committee discussed the need for administrative support to process these requests. Dr. Gupta shared that his office now has a better capacity to support these requests and start to walk researchers through a checklist to assist faculty members who have received external funding to successfully execute projects.

*Action:* Dr. Purvey will invite Dr. Gupta to meet with council of Deans to discuss ORS/Decanal responsibilities.

*Action:* Dr. Gupta to liaise with ORS for single point of contact for bureaucratic aspects of administering the funding receipts.

*Action:* Chair to invite representatives from Financial Services and Operational Risk Management to meet with SSCRGs to speak about concerns that researchers have with working with community.

## **8.2. Canadian Research Chair Annual Report**

Daniel Bernstein informed the committee that he received a Canada Research Chair in 2013, which was renewed in 2018. He shared that he has appreciated KPU's support of 75% release time and plans to submit a report to Senate. This release has enabled him to devote time to training people in his lab, which has between 10 and 20 people, almost all of whom are or were KPU students. Two Simon Fraser University PhD candidates are also working in the lab and he is overseeing their thesis work. Dr. Kyle Matsuba has also received release time to help oversee the new Richmond Lifespan Cognition Lab. The Lifespan Cognition lab uses space on both the Surrey and Richmond campuses, and has performed much of its work as online research, starting several years ago. This ability to work online has meant an easier transition for the lab during the current crisis, as all person-to-person work has been suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. Current work in the lab involves worldwide collaborations in research across the lifespan, and focusing on memory work. The Canada Research Chair has brought over \$375,000 in external funding to KPU, \$125,000 since 2018 alone.

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The lab's publications feature student co-authors and first authors, and Dr. Bernstein shared that he only rarely publishes solo-authored work. The research performed has informed teaching at KPU, for example when he immediately returned from a conference and was able to share new research with his Honours students and colleagues immediately afterwards. He informed the committee he has developed a course for the University of Mannheim in Germany, and will continue to work on that course remotely, on the topic that the CRC is supporting. He would like to teach it at KPU as a special topics course in the future. He also described for the committee how the Science World speaker series was a useful partnership for the work of the lab, as was the partnership with the Centre for Child Development in Surrey. Data collection at Science World was made available through one of these partnerships, and the lab is now hoping to partner with the Vancouver Aquarium. The Research Chair has also permitted professional development by allowing Dr. Bernstein to visit Flinders University in Australia to work with colleagues. Susan Daflos, the Lifespan Cognition lab manager, is a registered clinical counsellor and has also been able to find professional development through Dr. Bernstein's CRC.

### **8.3. Research Data Management at KPU**

Chris Burns thanked the committee for the invitation and spoke about recent work performed that defines what research data is and describes what must take place to manage research data through its lifecycle. Funding agencies are increasingly requiring researchers to share data underlying research so others can verify and replicate findings, and this sharing maximizes value by allowing for reuse. She shared a presentation with committee.

*Action:* All members are requested to share this presentation and information with colleagues.

*Action:* Deepak Gupta to provide specific questions for committee members to consider and bring their ideas to the next meeting. Committee will collect, discuss, and vote upon the proposed list of questions. (Senate Office to schedule 30 minutes in agenda for this item).

*Action:* Following the SSCRGs discussion, Dr. Gupta and Chris Burns will discuss receiving feedback about digital data management.

### **8.4. Merit Checkbox on Course Outlines**

Amy Jeon and Layne Myhre described two ongoing reviews for animal research to the committee. Dr. Myhre proposed the idea of conducting merit reviews for pedagogical merit in animal experimentation and explained that the Canadian Council on Animal Care requirements for use of animals in teaching and research are satisfied by the review of any granting agency. Currently, courses don't undergo screening, so the suggestion was made at the task force meeting to create pedagogical merit review, consisting of two internal reviewers (external to course but can be internal to organization), change to course outline document to show whether this has taken place. Live animals as part of teaching component, only vertebrates and cephalopod invertebrates are considered animals for the purposes of this review. Some kind of formalization required.

Two checkboxes: scientific merit review and pedagogical merit review, establish due diligence process. The committee discussed sending this item to the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum to consider adding this item to the course outline review process. The committee discussed adding a box for scientific merit on the course outline as well.

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**Dr. Gupta moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum should consider the addition of a pedagogical merit review for courses using animals**

**The motion carried.**

*Action:* Dr. Burns to speak with Dr. Gupta and guest about how to handle this change on the outlines.

#### **8.5. COVID-19 Research Funding**

Deepak Gupta described the need to support researchers and students in funding for COVID 19 related research. Inspired by example at VIU, many may wish to use their time to address the pandemic. Committee members expressed interest on behalf of their colleagues, both in bench science and social sciences. Packets of money within KPU would be helpful, Dr. Gupta mentioned the Michael Smith award, and that sustainable agriculture was already working on this.

#### **9. Items for Information**

##### **9.1. Senate Effectiveness Survey**

David Burns informed the committee that the Office of Planning and Accountability would be administering a Senate Effectiveness Survey in May to all senators and members of senate standing committees. As volunteers, representatives and senators will be asked to answer questions about their role and whether they feel the Senate gives people a good opportunity to use their time well in support of the University. This instrument allows the Senate Office and the Vice-Chair to make changes to support members in fulfilling their roles.

*Action:* Chair to determine if there are graduate studies questions in the survey, given that this element is new since the last survey in 2017.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

Leanne Waddington of the Office of Teaching and Learning, shared that they have been working intensively with IT to meet needs related to research in the classroom, including the purchase of software for both qualitative and quantitative data management. A message has been sent to deans and coordinators inviting them to share their needs for research and to channel these requests to the Teaching & Learning Commons. Individuals may send these requests to the email that was sent out using the provided a form and link, or may simply email the general Commons email address to provide the name of the software, how many users are anticipated and how many student users.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.