

## SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 8, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MS Teams Online

Voting Member Quorum 7 members		
Paul Adams Daniel Bernstein – Chair Deepak Gupta Deborah Henderson Victor Martinez	Joel Murray Paul Ohler Mandeep Pannu Mark Vardy Diane Purvey	
		<b>Non-voting</b>
		David Burns
<b>Regrets</b>	<b>Senate Office</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Sundeep Varaich Elizabeth Worobec Karen Meijer-Kline	Meredith Laird	Tara Lyons Darya Kostrimitina

#### 1. Call to Order

The Chair opened the meeting with a Territorial Acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Add item for discussion: Research Associate Positions

**Mark Vardy moved the agenda be confirmed as amended.**

**The motion carried.**

#### 3. Approval of Minutes, March 11, 2021

**Joel Murray moved the minutes be accepted as presented.**

**The motion carried.**

#### 4. Chair's Report

Daniel Bernstein provided a verbal report. He highlighted the two items from the White Paper on Research and Scholarship that were referred to this committee for action and asked members to plan to share their own research at a future meeting.

## **5. Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies Report**

The committee received the written report. Deepak Gupta highlighted that KPU has been admitted as an associate member to the Western Canadian Deans of Graduate Studies. He encouraged members to view the Research Impact Canada Videos that have been uploaded to the Research & Innovation's YouTube channel. He confirmed that the occupancy permit for the Applied Genomics Centre has been received. He highlighted the additional efforts made to ensure cybersecurity at the institution and an increased need to safeguard data being stored electronically and housed physically at the University, and that more stringent security measures are a requirement of the Tri-Agencies. He also shared that a new agreement has been signed with SAGE Publishing, permitting open access publishing with a large number of journals.

The committee discussed the relationship between the Western Deans of Graduate Studies and the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies and how KPU can best engage with these groups before a faculty of graduate studies is established at KPU.

## **6. Chair, Research Ethics Board Report**

The committee received the written report. Tara Lyons shared the number of applications in the various stages of review, the training received in her group on the PREP platform, and shared that a one-on-one training session for PREP would be available to anyone for whom this would be useful. She updated the committee on meetings held with the Research Ethics Board at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. She emphasized the importance of completion reports and that her group is continuing to work to ensure it is able to meet reporting and audit requirements.

The committee discussed how best to support researchers in the timely submission of completion reports. Tara Lyons shared that the REB has been requesting the return of outstanding completion reports before it agrees to review further applications from researchers, and that it is possible to request extensions to the study if it is likely that more work may be required, such as might happen during the review for publication. The committee discussed how best to share these options with researchers as they initiate projects.

Tara Lyons shared that the REB will be hosting a coffee break at the KPU Engage Employee Lounge on MS Teams on April 23, from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m., and will have members available to answer questions, share resources, and chat with anyone who wishes to drop in.

## **7. Items for Discussion**

### **7.1. Action items from White Paper, Funding Research and Scholarship**

Dean Purvey informed the committee that she will introduce a discussion of Item 1.e. at the Deans' Council meeting for April and bring a report to this committee at its next meeting.

The committee discussed how to proceed with item 1.b., including communicating with Faculty councils, how changes to policy may help incentivize or prioritize funding, how seed funding can be used to engage student work.

The committee discussed the need to develop definitions of research and scholarship that highlight the broad nature of these terms and the experience gained and competencies developed by students engaged in research. The committee discussed how it might support the inclusion of research and scholarship in the updates to the Research Plan, the Institutional Strategic Plan, and the Academic Plan, as well as how goals from these Plans are frequently translated into course and program learning outcomes. The committee discussed how to encourage faculty to stay current in their disciplines, including through publishing and conferences, through updating certifications, and how best to communicate this throughout the institution.

## **7.2. Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Research**

Members of this committee are invited to join the Task Force and to encourage colleagues to join by sharing why they feel EDI matters in Research and Scholarship.

Deepak Gupta shared that this six- to eight-member Task Force will be tasked with learning about developments related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as it affects research, staying current with new governmental and funding agency requirements, and suggesting ways that the institution and researchers can adapt their work to meet these changes. The Task Force will hold meetings over the next 6 to 12 months to create a series of recommendations and a curated collection of information about EDI in research.

## **7.3. Animal Use in Research and Teaching at KPU**

Layne Myhre and Deepak Gupta described the Draft Policy and Procedure *RS6 Animal Care Use and Ethics in Teaching and Research* which is currently posted on KPU's Policy Blog and seeks to bring KPU into compliance with Tri-Agency requirements for institutions conducting research and teaching with animals.

*Action:* All members are requested to thoroughly review the draft policy and procedures and bring their comments to the next meeting of this committee.

## **7.4. Promoting Employment Opportunities for Students in Research**

Darya Kostromitina shared that researchers may have difficulty recruiting students for volunteering and job postings. She encouraged members to contact her directly for assistance with postings to the Career Development Centre or to Research and Innovation's social media accounts and shared that the Office of Research Services is establishing relationships with the Kwantlen Students' Association and KPU News to post opportunities on their platforms as well.

The committee discussed working with the Career Development Centre as another means of posting opportunities for work/study and volunteering, as well as job boards and how physical assets on campus provide an ongoing way both to celebrate openings and work performed. The committee discussed how messaging could be included in orientation packages and how to communicate to faculty through Department and Faculty Councils.

### **7.5. Research Associate Positions**

Paul Adams shared with the committee that research associate positions are currently not categorized as BCGEU positions, but may only be listed as casual-service contract positions.

The committee discussed how this affects the ability to effectively staff research institutes and support their continuing work, and that Item 4.e. from the White Paper suggested the creation of a class of research and technical assistants within BCGEU that was forwarded to the Associate Vice-President of Human Resources for action.

*Action:* Paul Adams and Deborah Henderson will forward a description of this issue to Daniel Bernstein and Deepak Gupta, who will bring the issue to the attention of the Provost.

### **7.6. Sharing Ongoing Research at KPU**

Daniel Bernstein shared a presentation with the committee about his own research on Hindsight Bias and encouraged other members to consider a short presentation or description of their own research at future meetings. Paul Adams agreed to present at May's committee meeting.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.