

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND
GRADUATE STUDIES**

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 4, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MS Teams Online

Voting Member Quorum 7 members		
Paul Adams	Mandeep Pannu	
Daniel Bernstein – Chair	Sundeeep Varaich	Non-voting
Deepak Gupta	Diane Purvey	David Burns
Deborah Henderson	Mark Vardy	
Karen Meijer-Kline	Elizabeth Worobec	
Joel Murray		
Regrets	Senate Office	Guests
Victor Martinez Paul Ohler	Meredith Laird	Tara Lyons Brian Moukperian Jim Rahaman Lori McElroy Darya Kostromitina Celine Li

1. Call to Order

The Chair opened the meeting with a Territorial Acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The committee approved the agenda as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes, May 13, 2021

The committee approved the minutes as circulated.

4. Chair’s Report

Daniel Bernstein provided a verbal report. He thanked student member Simi Kaur for her contribution and shared that a new student, Celine Li, would begin her term with the committee in September. He thanked the three members whose term is expiring in July for renewing their membership and thanked David Burns, outgoing Vice-Chair, for his contribution and mentorship.

The Chair read from the report he has submitted to Senate on the work underway on the two action items from the White Paper on Research on Scholarship and informed the committee

that he attended a meeting of all Faculty Councils to discuss the Faculty- or School-specific plans for research.

He reminded the committee that its meetings are moving to Tuesday afternoons for the next session of Senate and that it will review its mandate in the fall. Lori McElroy requested that OPA be invited to attend those meetings to ensure it can continue to provide support and ensure materials from their office appropriately reflect the needs of the committee.

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

The committee received the written report. Deepak Gupta highlighted that the competition for the Sherman Jen Research Chair Position is currently underway, and will employ the same approach as is used for the Canada Research Chair searches, including operating with an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion lens in the composition of the nominating committee. It is hoped that the nominating committee will be able to meet over the summer for a September start for the Research Chair.

He also announced that KPU has been granted its third Canada Research Chair, Karen Davison, in Nutrition Informatics, and that the office of the AVPRIGS is working to secure lab space suitable for this work. Daniel Bernstein advised the committee that his Canada Research Chair will end in 2023 and suggested that this information might be shared more broadly so that other faculty members could be made aware of the timelines related to the next nomination.

Deepak Gupta informed the committee that Policy RS6 *Animal Use and Ethics in Teaching and Research* is now approved and in effect. He thanked the members of the Policy Working Group for their efforts in developing this policy and shared that in addition to this committee, he had sought feedback from the Senate Standing Committees on Teaching & Learning and on Curriculum.

Deepak Gupta shared that the Corporate Communications team will be providing training in media interviews for researchers and members or other faculty interested in obtaining this training, who should contact David Connop Price or Sucheta Singh to schedule this.

6. Chair, Research Ethics Board Report

The committee received the written report. Tara Lyons shared that the Research Ethics Board will have a new member, Zahaia Marzouk, starting in the fall, who will assist the team with the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Tara Lyons shared that the REB office has been kept busy with work on multijurisdictional files and with outreach to departments concerning course-based research. In July, the Research Ethics BC Administrators meeting will focus on course-based research and this should provide support to the REB in its work to update the course-based research template. Tara Lyons is planning for new documents to be available in time for faculty to use in their September course planning. She informed the committee that Professional Development for team members of the REB has included a focus on data management planning and she gave a heads-up to members of the committee that there will be an increased focus on guidelines and practices related to data retention. The committee discussed the development of the data retention plan and the fact that it is not always possible to predict the possible future uses of data.

New Public Health Orders are expected to be announced during the summer, and the REB will endeavour to communicate any changes to guidelines for in-person research as the announcements are made.

Tara Lyons invited the committee to take a moment to acknowledge the tragic loss of Katie Warfield from the KPU community.

7. New Business

7.1. Draft Policy AC13 *Minimum Faculty Qualifications*

Daniel Bernstein handed the Chair to David Burns.

Brian Moukperian, Dean, Faculty of Trades & Technology, described changes to the draft Policy AC13 and requested feedback on the draft Policy from the committee. He highlighted the consultations that have taken place with Faculty Councils and the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee. Josephine Chan shared that SGNC is currently the only Senate standing committee with a mandate to advise Senate on faculty qualifications.

The committee discussed how it may play an advisory role on faculty qualifications, its current mandate related to academic standards for graduate studies and whether the input sought from this committee should be broadened to include the conduct of research at any academic level. The discussion also included a consideration of other faculty credentials in addition to minimum qualifications, such as teaching research skills and the level of currency in the area taught. The committee discussed that student supervision at any academic level may call for further faculty training in ways to ensure this different instructor-student relationship can be most successful and that at other universities, incoming faculty are vetted by the Senate Committee on Research as part of the hiring process.

The committee discussed the possibility of providing advice about standards to the SGNC for graduate and undergraduate courses that relate to research, such as capstone or thesis courses and noted that minimum qualifications as described in the current table apply to departments, not at the level of individual courses.

David Burns handed the chair back to Daniel Bernstein.

7.2. Creating a fully-funded, staffed, and functional ORS

Deepak Gupta asked the committee for its advice about this item from the White Paper, about how to build a robust ORS appropriate to the aspirations of KPU, to become the one location with expertise and capacity-building to support researchers.

The committee discussed publishing support as a possible addition to the list of Programs and Services that were included in the agenda package and requested a more detailed explanation of some of the items on the list. The committee suggested grouping items into categories or themes which might then connect to individual roles.

Deepak Gupta will bring this item back to the committee with a specific request for the support he is seeking.

7.3. Developing a web application for Scholarly Impact Showcase

Deepak Gupta explained the work done to date in response to the committee's and White Paper's suggestions that there be more celebration of research at the institution. The ORS has been working on the development of a web application for researchers to create an online portfolio and contribute updates regularly.

Darya Kostromitina described further details from the concept paper. Lori McElroy shared with the committee that the Office of Planning and Accountability has a reporting responsibility and suggested that the SharePoint tool that was developed but not yet launched might be modified to support this research-specific need. The committee discussed that development of new applications that rely on expertise limited to a small number of employees is vulnerable to obsolescence as individuals change job functions or leave the University.

The committee discussed the balance between making information public and the security of information about projects, how Open Science Framework (OSF) is a popular tool that contains both an open and private repository for information, that making this information outward-facing could provide an incentive for faculty members to keep the information updated, as other similar reporting mechanisms experience difficulty encouraging regular reporting.

7.4. Alpha Release of ORS SharePoint Website

Jim Rahaman requested volunteers to provide feedback on the draft ORS SharePoint site so that this can be incorporated into the next update of the site in preparation for its launch. He suggested it would require approximately two hours of members' time and could take place over the next two weeks.

Action item: Darya Kostromitina will provide the link to the site to the Senate Office. The Senate Office will forward this to members who volunteered to provide a review: Mark Vardy, Joel Murray, Betty Worobec, Deborah Henderson, and Karen Meijer Kline

7.5. Survey on Teaching, Research & Library Supports

Lori McElroy shared a presentation on the portion of the most recent TRLS survey that concerned research, innovation, and graduate studies. She explained that the original impetus for the survey came from Teaching & Learning Commons, to investigate which supports could be available to students, and that this survey included questions about research and library supports for the first time.

The committee discussed the insights that can be gained from these data and the survey's usefulness in highlighting priorities for the institution as well as measuring progress against institutional goals.

The committee suggested that an infographic of the key takeaways from the survey would be a useful tool to share the insights gained more broadly throughout the institution and suggested the staff within the ORS or T&L Commons may be able to provide assistance in producing this communication piece.

7.6. Volunteer presenters for Oct, Nov, Jan meetings

Deborah Henderson volunteered to share her research for the October meeting, Mark Vardy volunteered to share his research in November.

8. Adjournment

The Chair wished the members a pleasant summer break: “Stay as sweet as you are, don’t ever change, have a nice summer, see you in the fall.”

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.