

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND
GRADUATE STUDIES
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
MS Teams Online**

Voting Member Quorum 7 members		
Paul Adams	Lilach Marom	
Daniel Bernstein – Chair	Mandeep Pannu	Non-voting
Deepak Gupta	Sundeep Varaich	Amy Jeon
Deborah Henderson	Diane Purvey	
Karen Meijer-Kline	Mark Vardy	
Celine Li	Elizabeth Worobec	
Regrets	Senate Office	Guests
	Meredith Laird	Tara Lyons Sandy Vanderburgh Amit Shukla Victor Martinez

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 by unanimous consent.

3. Update on Research and Scholarship

Sandy Vanderburgh, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, shared with the committee that a great deal of progress has been made on advancing action items contained in the report: Educational Excellence: A White Paper on KPU’s Research and Scholarship (White Paper). He noted the completion of the Applied Genomics Lab, that an endowment has been created, funding from which will be directed to research by faculty and students. He also described additional resources that have been directed to the Office of Research Services in the 2021 budget, and that his office and the Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies have been working with Human Resources to address the request to create regular positions, and provide benefits to current employees who are working on contract in research groups. He also shared that data is being collected about graduate programming throughout the institution and that he has been engaging with Faculty Councils to solicit feedback about the types of research currently conducted and what research means in different Faculties.

Sandy Vanderburgh also shared that a committee has been formed within the Provincial Government to examine the University Act and other legislation that relates to teaching institutes with a view to updating the legislation.

Deepak Gupta shared that he has been participating in these discussions and that the Province is moving towards an enabling framework for teaching institutes, which might better support staffing needs within KPU. He also informed the committee that money available through the endowment is managed by the Foundation, and therefore can be allocated to multi-year initiatives.

Sandy Vanderburgh then answered questions of the committee concerning the monies that will be available through the endowment and other sources and the timeline expected for the Human Resources changes to the status of contract employees.

Sandy Vanderburgh agreed to attend this committee again to provide updates from his office on research and scholarship at KPU, and invited members to direct their concerns and questions to Deepak Gupta so they could be brought forward to him and addressed.

4. Approval of Minutes, June 24, 2021

The committee approved the minutes as circulated by unanimous consent.

5. Chair's Report

Daniel Bernstein provided a verbal report. He welcomed the new Vice-Chair of Senate, Amy Jeon and the new student member, Celine Li, as well as Marcelina Piotrowski, the Designate of the Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning. The Chair reminded members that meetings will be held via Teams and have moved to Tuesday afternoons for this Senate session, and that Senate will determine how meetings will be held after January.

The Chair reminded the committee of the two standing items from the White Paper that were sent to this group to consider:

1b) Request that all Departments develop a formalized plan for integrating opportunities for undergraduate research. Research must be regarded as integral to learning objectives and be included, for instance, as a required part of a major, and

1e) Recognize research as essential to the classroom and to the scholarship of teaching and learning. KPU faculty members need to be proactive in their disciplines to ensure the continued relevance and quality of educational programs

The Chair suggested that two possible actionable routes were through the institution's program review process and the Academic Plan. He also mentioned that this committee might request that research be added to all future program reviews. He informed the committee that he and the previous Vice-Chair of Senate, David Burns, had attended a meeting of all Faculty Council Chairs to discuss item 1a.

The Chair informed the committee that it will have the opportunity to review its mandate and membership composition at the October meeting, and asked members to consider the possibility of creating seats on the committee for people within the institution who are not currently supportive of developing an increased focus on research at KPU. He explained the idea behind adversarial collaboration, which is used in other scholarly pursuits, as a way of including disparate views in order to arrive at more sound conclusions.

He reminded members of the expectation to come to meetings having read the agenda packages and submitted materials and to volunteer to take on action items that arise from the committee's work.

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

The committee received the written report. Deepak Gupta introduced Dr. Amit Shukla who joined the team in ORS in July. Amit Shukla shared that he is a biochemist by training, has worked on projects related to entrepreneurship and supported several Canadian Foundation for Innovation projects at the University of Saskatchewan. He is currently working on an application to NSERC with Deborah Henderson, as well as on the endowed chair initiative, and on items related to student research.

7. Chair, Research Ethics Board Report

The committee received the written report. Tara Lyons shared that the Course-Based Research Template is currently undergoing revision to reflect updated best practices her office gleaned at recent conferences and the new version will be available shortly.

She answered questions of the committee related to in-person research and privacy restrictions around confirming research assistants' vaccination status. Diane Purvey shared with the committee that Laurie Clancy, the Vice-President, Human Resources had advised that supervisors were not permitted to request an individual's vaccination status, but could certainly receive information that individuals choose to self-disclose. Diane Purvey also suggested committee members might ask for advice from Adam Jaffer, the Special Advisor on Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the President. Deepak Gupta shared he had spoken with Jennifer Duprey, Legal Counsel, and expects that an official statement from the University providing guidance to supervisors will be circulated within the next few weeks.

8. New Business

8.1. Pedagogical Merit Review Workflow

Deepak Gupta and Amy Jeon described suggested changes to the course outline template and curricular workflow as a result the approval of policy RS6 on June, 2021. A two-step process is recommended: a pedagogical merit review and Animal Care Committee approval. Amy Jeon described the automated workflow that could be included in the new CourseLeaf system, triggered by course developer selections on the course outline itself.

Elizabeth Worobec moved THAT the Senate Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies recommend that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve the addition of the following fields to the Course Outline template:

Does this course require the use of vertebrate or cephalopod animals?

Yes No

If yes, please provide:

a) Date of the Pedagogical Merit review _____, and

b) Expiry date of the certification from the Animal Care Committee _____

The motion carried.

8.2. Research Presentation

Victor Martinez shared a presentation about his research in his education and employment prior to joining KPU. He described some of the frustrations he has experienced in advancing his research within KPU.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.