

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MS Teams Online

Voting Member Quorum 7 members		
Paul Adams	Mandeep Pannu	
Daniel Bernstein – Chair	Marcelina Piotrowski	Non-voting
Deepak Gupta	Sundeeb Varaich	Amy Jeon
Deborah Henderson	Mark Vardy	
Karen Meijer-Kline	Elizabeth Worobec	
Lilach Marom		
Regrets	Senate Office	Guests
	Meredith Laird	Tara Lyons Greg Millard Cathy Parlee

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. Approval of Minutes, September 14, 2021

The committee approved the minutes as circulated by unanimous consent.

4. Chair's Report

Daniel Bernstein provided a verbal report. He welcomed Greg Millard, Pro Tem Dean of Arts to the committee. The Chair reminded the committee of two items from the White Paper that Senate assigned to this group. He described his ideas around adversarial collaboration through inviting faculty members to join the committee to provide other perspectives.

The committee discussed how it might assist other groups in providing a response to the White Paper, including the creation of a definition of research on behalf of the institution, and working with Program Review and the Teaching & Learning Commons to determine how research might be included as part of the review of programs and curricular development. The committee discussed that drafts of competencies and learning outcomes for research might already exist within the groups working with external standards.

Action: Chair will contact SSC T&L Chair and the Teaching & Learning Commons to discuss how to begin work on drafting these definitions.

4.1. KPU Submission to Select Standing Committee on Finances and Government Services

The Chair described KPU's submission to this Provincial Committee, which emphasized the need for further research funding to post-secondary institutions in general and at for KPU in particular, as well as emphasizing the importance of funding research to create learning opportunities for students and support for employers within industry.

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

The committee received the written report. Deepak Gupta shared with the committee that a donation from Ballard Power had just been received which would be allocated to funding the purchase of an electron microscope. This instrument will be housed within the Physics Department on the Richmond Campus, though would be accessible for use by other groups within the University. He described new positions that will be created shortly within the Office of Research Services which will be able to better support research and researchers at KPU and will assist the University in competing for funding from external organizations and governments. He encouraged members to bring forward any suggestions to assist improvements in their activities.

He informed the committee that the Surrey campus ORS office has moved into Fir 115, while maintaining its presence at the Langley and Richmond campuses.

5.1. Student Research and Innovation Grant

Deepak Gupta shared that there are now two application streams within this grant, and that applicants are encouraged to apply for other sources of funding at the same time, which may be added to the funds from this grant to better support their research. He answered questions from the committee about how research performed during the summer and fall would be able to meet the deadlines for application and how research for future academic years might be considered.

Cathy Parlee shared a presentation about these new grants available to students, which replace the previous student-led research grants. She confirmed there will be two streams for applications: an Extra-Curricular Stream, and a Curricular Stream (mostly used by Honours Students). She shared that there are instructional videos and materials on the ORS portal and that synchronous training sessions would be scheduled and promoted shortly.

6. Chair, Research Ethics Board Report

The committee received the written report. Tara Lyons asked for feedback on the new report format, which contains multi-jurisdictional reporting. She confirmed that the updated ROMEO questions are now live, and communications will be shared shortly about how to access the new set of questions as faculty and students submit their applications. The new questions are in line with other institutions' applications, which should assist those who need to harmonize applications. She shared there is also a new, October 2021 version of the consent form which contains embedded instructions and a revised Scholarship of Teaching and Learning template which will assist faculty in this area with ethics applications.

She confirmed for the committee that course-based research questions are different than what is in ROMEO and these will be updated at a later time after a thorough review.

7. New Business

7.1. Mandate and Membership Sharing

The Chair shared the current mandate and membership composition of this committee.

The committee discussed how the mandate of this committee can influence the standards for programs and their learning outcomes, whether graduate studies might be developed without research and that general oversight of research within a graduate program should be the purview of this committee.

The Vice-Chair of Senate described the timeline for standing committees to review their mandates after the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee does a thorough review of all committee mandates and memberships and that their recommendations will be provided to this committee in the spring for its review and comment.

The Chair introduced the idea of inviting a faculty member who is not a supporter of research to join the committee. The committee discussed that having a different perspective might be helpful, such as indigenous or other cultural perspectives rather than someone who is in general opposition to research, as well as the possibility of regularly inviting other members of the institution who are known to have differing views to attend and share their perspective.

Deborah Henderson moved THAT the Senate Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies recommend that the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee recommend that Senate approve a position on this committee for a member engaging in non-traditional research topics or methodologies e.g. indigenous perspectives, arts-based or research-creation, etc.

After debate and amendment, the motion carried.

7.2. Notice of Election of Standing Committee Vice-Chair

The Chair gave notice of the election for Standing Committee Vice-Chair, which will be held at the committee's next meeting.

7.3. Research Presentation

Daniel Bernstein handed chairing of the meeting to Amy Jeon, Vice-Chair of Senate.

Deborah Henderson shared a presentation on research conducted at the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture Research and Innovation, invited members to contact her if they wish to visit the site for a quick tour, and answered questions from the committee.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.