

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MS Teams Online

Voting Member Quorum: 7		
Brett Favaro, Vice-Chair Daniel Bernstein, Chair Deborah Henderson Deepak Gupta	Mark Vardy Patrick Lui Shelley Boyd	Non-voting
		Amy Jeon
Regrets	Senate Office	Guests
Alan Davis Karen Meijer-Kline Leeann Waddington Mandeep Pannu Paul Adams Sue Fairburn Zena Mitchell	Sonia Banwait Michelle Molnar	Amit Shukla Melissa Cuthill Taranum Sultana

1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair, Daniel Bernstein, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Daniel Bernstein moved the agenda be confirmed as circulated.

The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes, February 28, 2023

Daniel Bernstein moved the minutes be accepted as circulated.

The motion carried.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair provided his report. He informed the committee that guest presenters Valerie Vezina and Hammond Tarry will be giving their research presentations after the regular business portion of the meeting is adjourned.

He also informed the committee that item 7.2 will be tabled to next month's meeting as Dr. Waddington is no longer able to attend today to speak to the item.

Lastly, he restated the two priorities as Chair for this committee, which include developing departmental responses to white paper in research and scholarship and to continue working group mandates.

5. Regular Reports

5.1. Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies

Deepak Gupta, Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation, Graduate Studies, presented his report.

The Chair also shared that the KPU-Science World speaker series will continue which will provide more opportunities for sharing research.

5.1.1. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Program Courses

Deepak Gupta shared that KPU has acquired access to online self-paced courses from Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative Canada (CITI Canada) as part of its new membership in N2 (Network of Networks) and BCAHSN (British Columbia Academic Health Science Network). He informed that the aim of this acquisition is to ensure the highest standard of research integrity is maintained as KPU.

The courses cover a range of topics related to research integrity, research ethics, data management, animal care and use, and more. The courses are intended to be offered at KPU to committees/faculties involved in research with humans or animals, and eventually be offered to students involved in research projects. He informed the Research office is looking to pilot a soft launch and look into the potential for badging or micro-credentialing the courses through KPU. Him and his team, including Amit Shukla and Taranum Sultana, shared they are looking for early adopters and put the message out to the committee members to consider.

The Chair offered a suggestion to the team to provide more detail and direction to committee members with course information, duration of courses and the recommended courses for them to take.

5.2. Working Groups

5.2.1. SSCRGs Mandate Review

No report.

5.2.2. Curating Research Presentations

No report.

5.2.3. Generating KPU Definition of Research

No report.

6. New Business

6.1. Research Data Management (RDM) Strategy Endorsement

Melissa Cuthill shared that over the last 6 months, the RDM Strategy Working Group co-sponsored by the AVPRIGS and the Library has worked to prepare KPU's strategy, which is now ready for publication.

Daniel Bernstein moved THAT the Senate Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies endorse the KPU Research Data Management Strategy, effective March 01, 2023.

The motion carried.

7. Items for discussion

7.1. Research Plan Template

Daniel Bernstein shared that the goal is to aid faculties by developing a research plan template on white paper on research and look into things such as how psychology is engaging in research, hiring practices, etc. He informed the committee that the deadline for responses is approaching and will provide further insight.

7.2. Promoting Undergraduate Research

This item was deferred to next meeting.

7.3. Mandate Review

Brett Favaro, Vice-Chair, shared a new proposal for the ongoing SSCRGs mandate review. He provided a comparison of Senate committees pertaining to research or graduate studies across seven major universities in BC. With the presented information, he shared that separating operational decision-making and governance can be unclear as is currently the case with SSCRGs. He highlighted that the roles of committees are to be advisory in nature to Senate, while Senate is responsible for governance. Based on the analysis, he offered two proposals to the current mandate.

Firstly, he proposed to remove graduate studies from the mandate, which would allow the committee to focus more specifically on governance questions surrounding research, that are not related to other standing committees. He shared that graduate programming would still fall under the purview of Senate through related Senate committees, such as the Senate Standing Committees on Curriculum (SSCC) and/or the Senate Standing Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities (SSCAPP). He also highlighted that Senate can establish a new, specific committee if there becomes a need in the future.

Secondly, he proposed the current mandate of prioritizing research be restructured to reflect the committee's status as an advisory board, similar to that of UBC. He suggested that SSCRGs be responsive to requests and maintain a clear advisory position, instead of being tasked with leading establishments of new activities.

The committee discussed the mandate proposal and a member asked whether it was even necessary to have a committee on research as opposed to establishing something more direct and purposeful. Another member shared their support for the research committee and expressed it adds tremendous value to the students and faculty at KPU.

The Chair shared that the development of white paper requires committee support to be pivotal in ensuring that Senate act on the recommendations. Brett Favaro suggested to amend the mandate to include the white paper project and also include that support and advice on research governance will still be provided.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.