

Strategic Consultation on Research and Graduate Studies at TRU

Consultation Task Force Meeting Notes (September 11, 2017)

The Task Force Committee decided on a small group (3 people) for the external review team

The committee expressed a keen interest in consulting early in the process with early career faculty at TRU, those who are recent tenure track and/or within five years of graduation.

The overarching invitation question may be some variation of the following: "With reference to TRU's Strategic Research Plan, What would "success" for Research and Graduate Studies look like in 2 -5 years."

The committee would like to add a question regarding the governance and culture of Research and Graduate Studies. Will GP will work on this and produce several further guiding questions for presentation and focus groups to consider: please see revised Terms of Reference and Timelines copied below. We noted that while there are no perfect meeting times, that Mondays and Fridays, 3-5 pm, seem good times to schedule meetings and presentations. The group agreed that not all Task Force members need be present for all meetings and presentations, but that we will endeavour to schedule and coordinate to allow for full participation.

Below is a preliminary of Stakeholder groups that were identified during the discussion:

- Faculty/schools with research committee's
- Graduate students (International/ domestic)
- Undergraduate students
- Early/ mid/ established career faculty
- Program coordinators for graduate studies
- Community partners: City of Kamloops; Tk'emlups, Interior Health; Kamloops Art Gallery; United Way, and others
- Deans
- Indigenous scholars
- CRCs, Research Chairs, and Research Centre Directors
- Open Learning OLFMs
- Librarians
- TRU World
- Grant holders (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)
- Finance? Facilities? Student Services? These were just discussion points

Action items:

Caroline to send out email to the Task Force Committee to identify potential external reviewers and send the names to our office so Will can follow up

Change title of the Task Force to – ***Strategic Consultation on Research and Graduate Studies at TRU*** (Danna has changed it on the website)

Prepare draft invitation for committee review (2-day turnaround for feedback, please)

Send out invitation to faculty first, and begin working on schedule for further stakeholder groups

Strike small sub committee to review surveys and compile other questions- sub committee names- Tina Block, Heather Price, Troy Fuller and Sukh Heer Matonovich (we have set the date and time for meeting – September 28th at 10:30 am- Sukh is also reviewing the 68 questions and will provide the sub-committee with general notes and discussion prior to the meeting on the 28th)

We will add the Accountability Report (once ready) to the website, along with Terms of Reference, Meeting Notes, Policy Documents, and Relevant Reports as identified by the Task Force Committee.



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Strategic Consultation on Research and Graduate Studies at TRU

Mandate: The Provost's Office and Provost's Council have endorsed the establishment of a Strategic Consultation Task Force on Research and Graduate Studies—to help with the implementation of TRU's Strategic Research Plan and to align that implementation with the new Academic Plan (under development) and with Space Planning. While the principal focus of the consultation will be on strategies for successful implementation of the SRP, we will also consider questions of assessment and of research and graduate programming renewal. Our central question is "With reference to TRU's Strategic Research Plan, What would "success" for Research and Graduate Studies look like in 2 -5 years." Our consultation will address that question by focusing on the following five areas:

- Strategic planning and implementation, identifying opportunities for aligning strengths and opportunities with TRU's Priorities, Academic Plan, and Space Planning.

- Strategies for implementation of SRP in terms of governance and integrated academic support.
- Strategies for implementing the SRP that ensure faculty renewal, recruitment, and retention.
- Strategies for advancing the SRP's impact through student research training, knowledge mobilization, collaborations and community/institutional partnerships.
- Strategies for measuring success and impacts.

Sample points of departure reviewed by the Task Force at the initial September meeting:

- How much of the SRP has been implemented to date (report card)?
- Are the implementation strategies successful? Can they be improved?
- What has been the impact of the SRP?
- Are the metrics employed appropriate?
- Is necessary data available?
- In light of the Space Planning Study, do we have consensus on the creation and allocation of research space? Are policies in place?
- Does the SRP provide the right foundation for development of graduate studies?
- How do current policies and procedures support current graduate studies programming and future programming?

The Task Force will work with and advise the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, and through that Office make recommendations to the Senate Research Committee, the Graduate Studies Committee of Senate, and the Provost's Office.

Proposed Process:

Creation of Task Force Website
<p>Review of key documents:</p> <p>SRP, Strategic Priorities, Academic Plan, Divisional Planning Documents, Strategic Research Plan Survey Consultation, the TRU Space Planning Study—Kamloops Campus; the Graduate Studies Internal Audit Report, Program Review Guidelines for Graduate Studies; Williams Lake research planning documents, and Open Learning research planning documents; policy documents; additional reports, including accountability reports.</p>
<p>Convene Task Force:</p> <p>September: Overview of mandate, objectives, key documents, initial questions, and identification of stakeholders and focus groups.</p>

Possible creation of subcommittees.
Creation and distribution of faculty/student survey (to be approved by Task Force): Survey to be distributed October – November.
Environmental Scan, SWOT analysis, identification of key issues Facilitated November meeting of all Task Force Committee Members
Plans and update to be presented during the September Research Day. Check in with research community to begin dialogue and assess whether we have identified the right key issues and whether we are consulting both fully and wisely.
Focus Group Meetings: October – January Invite 20-minute presentations + dialogue; focus group meetings. Presentations and meetings will be recorded and loaded, along with key documents, onto the public Website.
November meeting of Task Force: Full Day review of data gathered to date. Facilitated SWOT analysis
Internal Report to be prepared by Committee by January 30. Site Visit by External Review Team during second week of February. The reviewers will visit campus for two days to meet with key stakeholders, including but limited to members of the senior executive team, faculty members, research chairs and research centre directors, administrative staff, faculty deans, student leaders, undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research associates. Final Report to be prepared by External Review Team (with support from Research Office staff) and submitted to Research Office by March 15, 2018
Presentation of Report to Senate Research Committee, Graduate Studies Committee of Senate, Provost’s Council, and a Town Hall Meeting to report out more generally: March – April, 2018