**RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF SENATE**

**March 03, 2009 3:30 – 5:30**

**Trades and Technology Room 155**

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| **Minutes** |

Present: Present: Cheryl Zawaduk, Ehsan Latif (chair), Jim Hu, Nancy Van Wagoner, David Scheffel, Kate Sutherland, Denise Tarlier, Charles Hayes, Sandy Scarf

Guests: Kelly-Anne Maddox, Lauch Fraser

Regrets: Julie Drolet, Karl Larsen, Paul Manhas, Norm Friesen

1. Call to order: 3:30 began meeting. Ehsan introduced guests, Kelly-Anne and Lauch, and new members, Sandy Scarf, staff representative from Human Resources.
2. Adoption of Agenda. Adopted with modifications to reflect presentation of changes to the PGS-M award by Lauch Fraser. Moved by Jim and seconded by Kate
3. Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2009. Moved by David, seconded by Jim.
4. Presentation
   1. Kelly -Anne Maddox presentation. The Undergraduate Research and Innovation Conference is now under the wing of our committee, and the organizing committee is a subcommittee of our committee, therefore, Kelly-Anne was invited to give a background and update.
      1. The first conference was held in 2006, being started by Annette Dominique, Kelly-Anne and a student, as an Arts initiative. There were 20 presentations
      2. Kelly-Anne took it over in 2007. There were 40 presentations. The conference was open to Arts and Science, and the Research Office published the proceedings.
      3. In 2008 there were 30 presentations, and proceedings were published with awards for the 3 best student papers given by the research office
      4. New this year is a comprehensive organizing committee comprising: Kelly-Anne Maddox, Don Lawrence, Heather Hamilton, Nancy Young, Mairi Mackay, Peter Hilton, Mohammad Mahbobi, Cheryl Zawaduk, Robert Hood, Martin Whittles and Nancy Levesque. The conference is scheduled for April 3-4, with a banquet and presentation of awards for best presentations. There is a more structured submission and review process for presentations and editorial committee for papers. The Trades were encouraged to participate, and have promised a presentation on the “Energy-efficient house” in 2010. Kate will look into furniture displays.
   2. Lauch presented concern regarding changes to the NSERC PGS-M award.
      1. Background: As a result of recommendations of the NSERC Strategic Review NSERC’s PGS program will restrict awards at the master’s level to one year only to align with the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) program. Students currently funded will not lose their scholarship, but starting with the current 2009 competition, winners of master’s level scholarships will receive one-year awards. NSERC’s policy of supporting students for a total of 4 years for their graduate studies will remain in effect, but only 1 year of support is available at the MSc level.  The Budget 2009 did announce an additional $87.5 million over three years for Canada Graduate Scholarships across the three Council, beginning in the current competition year.  For NSERC this will allow an additional 200 PhD level scholarships to be awarded in the current (2009) competition, and an additional 400 scholarships at the master’s level in each of the 2009 and 2010 competitions.
      2. This change is disadvantageous to universities that focus on master’s level programs.
      3. **Motion**: The TRU-SRC is concerned about the impact of NSERC’s decision to restrict the duration of the master’s level scholarships to one year, as being disadvantageous to students wishing to pursue this level of graduate studies, and to universities that focus on developing the highly qualified graduate students at the master’s level. Graduates of Master of Science research programs are well positioned to make a positive contribution to Canada’s private and public sectors and/or enter PhD programs. In British Columbia, this situation is further exacerbated because only 4 of BC’s universities (UNBC, UBC, SFU, and UVic) can access graduate student funding through the BC Government Funded Pacific Leaders Awards. Therefore, the TRU-RSC recommends that Senate request that the President work with the President’s of other universities in BC that may be similarly impacted and their VPs/AVPs of Research to investigate effective ways of addressing the impact of the new NSERC policy with NSERC. Moved by Kate, seconded by Jim, passed.
      4. NVW was instructed to investigate the impact on the NSERC-IPS award.
      5. NVW indicated that NSERC support of students is far greater than SSHRC and CIHR, and as the SSHRC representative she is working with colleagues to increase student funding in these areas.
5. Report of AVP- Research and Graduate Studies (see attached)
6. Business Arising From Minutes
   1. Revised Strategic Research Plan: NVW presented the revised SRP. The initial draft was reviewed by the TRU-RSC, the Research Chairs, and Garrett-Petts as a senior researcher. Based on the comments received modifications were made. The biggest change was breaking down one of the areas of concentration into two, and eliminating the names of specific researchers. Modeled after the SRPs of Lethbridge, Laurentian, and Guelph, the allocation of chairs with respect to research themes is presented in a table.
      1. It was agreed that members of the TRU-RCS will review the document and forward any changes to NVW with CC to the Chair, Ehsan by March 10th. We will conduct and electronic vote to approve the document. If approved, it will be forwarded to Senate for consideration by March 13th. NVW will prepare a preamble. We will request that Senate receive the SRP for information so that it can be posted on the Senate website, and there can be university-wide consultation before coming to vote before Senate.
   2. Terms of reference and composition for the sub committees—deferred till the next meeting.
7. Other business
   1. ASU/SIG awards. There is an urgent requirement to distribute funding from the ASU and SIG awards in a transparent manner. As subcommittee of David Scheffel, Kate Sutherland, Julie Drolet and NVW was established, and delegated to proceed.
   2. Alignment process concerns
      1. CUEF funding for the U-REAP award.
         1. Funding for the CUEF RESL and now the U-REAP award has been consistent at $150,000 for several years. The report of the Alignment Committee seems to change the way in which CUEF funding is allocated. The CUEF U-REAP is an important way of supporting undergraduate research. Senate recently endorsed the revised U-REAP award.
         2. The TRU-RCS recommends that CUEF funding for the U-REAP be guaranteed at a minimum of $150,000. The TRU-RSC instructs the Chair to investigate the best methods of getting this considered as part of the alignment process.
8. Planning for Open Meetings
   1. April 7th meeting will be open to the university community 3-5 PM. We agreed to 2 agenda items:
      1. Terms of reference of subcommittees of the TRU-SRC
      2. Comment on the SRP
   2. The TRU-RIGS will find a suitable location for a large group, have refreshments and send out a university-wide announcement following the Senate meeting.
9. Meeting time. We agreed to change the standard meeting time to 3-5 PM.
10. Adjournment