



**SENATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday 22 April 2022 10:00-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

**Attendance:** Guy Faulkner (Chair), James Stewart (Vice-Chair), Robert Boushel, Nancy Ford, Susan Porter, Greg Martyn, Gail Murphy, Anubhav Singh

**Guests:** Meigan Aronson, James Johnson, Robert McMaster, Josef Penninger

**Regrets:** Benjamin Fischer, Dee Goyal, Rob Kozak, Merje Kuus, Gail Murphy, James Olson, Anisha Sandhu, Lisa White

**Senate Staff:** Christopher Eaton, Michael Jud

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Senate Research and Scholarship Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on April 22, 2022 by G. Faulkner, Chair.

**ITEM 1: AGENDA**

To facilitate the participation of certain guests the Chair proposed that the order of agenda Items 4 and 5 be reversed. The Committee assented to this change.

The amended agenda was approved by general consent.

**ITEM 2: MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2022**

The meeting minutes of March 15, 2022 were approved by general consent.

**ITEM 3: LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE – PROPOSAL FOR GLOBAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE DESIGNATION**

Guests:

Dr. Meigan Aronson, Dean, Faculty of Science

Dr. James Johnson, Deputy Director, LSI

Dr. Robert McMaster, Vice Dean, Research, Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Josef Penninger, Scientific Director, LSI

Introductory comments were delivered by Dr. Josef Penninger, Scientific Director, LSI. It was explained that the LSI is an existing institute with a dual reporting structure to the Faculties of Medicine and Science. Following years of town hall meetings and discussions with faculty, engagement with stakeholders, and expressions of support from many parties, the LSI now seeks to be designated a GREx Institute.

The GREx Designation would support the LSI's Biological Resilience Initiative. It is thought that many grand challenges in medicine can be studied and potentially solved through a resilience lens. The LSI is therefore seeking to position UBC and BC at the leading edge of this field of study.

The Committee heard a summary of LSI personnel, organization, research accomplishments, and focus on interdisciplinary research, and training record. The LSI's budgetary request was also detailed. The LSI seeks to expand its shared resources and facilities in order to reduce technological barriers to the exploration of ideas. It was emphasized that the LSI aspires to global leadership and impact.

In response to a question, it was stated that the establishment of an International Research Advisory Board is one of the top priorities post-approval. The LSI is seeking a diverse committee with global representation, not just drawn from US and UK. It is thought that this will reveal different ways of approaching topics of resilience etc.

The Committee expressed support for the idea of shared facilities, as having redundant equipment or equipment only available to a few is a waste. But this support was subject to the concern that the proposed arrangements create inequality between those in LSI and those outside the LSI. In response it was stated that the LSI is pursuing distributed models and integrated facilities. It is hoped that this support for LSI will engender broader support for investments in core facilities in other parts of the university.

**Motion:** *THAT THE Committee recommend that the Provost and Vice-President Academic consider the Life Sciences Institute for designation as a Global Research Excellence Institute.*

Moved: G. Faulkner  
Seconded: M. Kuus  
**Carried.**

#### **ITEM 4: DRAFT POLICY V-300: RESEARCH CENTRES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES**

The Committee discussed a list of proposed positions on issues that are likely to be addressed by a potential policy on research centres and institutes (RCIs). Committee members offered the following comments:

- The proposal describes a categorization scheme according to which RCIs will be designated either Category 1 or Category 2. The descriptors currently associated with these categories, i.e. "broader focus, interdisciplinary" for Category 1 RCIs and "narrower scope" for Category 2 RCIs, may be unworkable in practice. It would be useful to look at some examples and see whether this type of distinction is viable.
- The proposal provides a robust review schedule for Category 1 RCIs. It would be helpful to know what is the anticipated volume of RCIs to be reviewed annually.
- It is essential to clarify whether an RCIs policy would apply retroactively. If retroactive application is being considered it will be necessary to carry out extensive consultation with those impacted.
- With respect to draft Policy V-300, there is a lack of clarity around the issue of RCIs and academic programming. It is unclear how the draft's distinction between centres and institutes would function in practice.
- At this stage it would be helpful to exclude the GREx approval process from any potential RCIs policy. The question of whether to incorporate GREx approvals into the policy can be revisited in the future.

- It would be helpful to create a table which clearly distinguishes between the characteristics of Category 1 and Category 2 RCIs based on the current proposal.

Senate staff undertook to continue developing the list of proposed policy positions in consultation with the office of the VPRI, and in particular to implement the requested table of Cat 1 vs Cat 2 characteristics.

#### **ITEM 5: FOLLOW-UP ON PWIAS REPORT**

The Committee held a follow-up discussion on the PWIAS matter which came up at the Committee's previous meeting. Prior to the meeting the Chair had sent a message as discussed to pertinent members of the administration regarding implementation of recommendations. The Committee was informed that the message was received and the administration is coordinating on a response and would be happy to provide an update to Senate if desired.

**Motion: *THAT THE*** *Committee request an inclusion in the Senate agenda of May 18 to provide an update re the PWIAS.*

G. Faulkner

S. Porter

**Carried.**

G. Murphy abstained

#### **ITEM 6: 2022-23 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Committee agreed that it would be desirable to avoid holding Committee meetings in the same week as Senate meetings. The Friday timeslot and virtual meeting format employing Zoom are still preferred.