



**SENATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday 18 February 2022 10:00-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

**Attendance**

**Senators:** Guy Faulkner (Chair), Robert Boushel, Nancy Ford, Rob Kozak, Merje Kuus, James Olson, Anisha Sandhu, Anubhav Singh,

**Ex Officio:** Greg Martyn, Gail Murphy

**Regrets:** Benjamin Fischer, Dee Goyal, Susan Porter, James Stewart (Vice-Chair), Lisa White

**Senate Staff:** Michael Jud

**Call to Order** The meeting of the Senate Research and Scholarship Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on February 18, 2022 by G. Faulkner, Chair.

**Agenda** ***THAT THE** Senate Research and Scholarship Committee adopt the February 18, 2022 meeting agenda as presented.*

Moved: G. Faulkner  
Seconded: R. Kozak  
**Carried.**

**Minutes of January 14 2022** ***THAT THE** Senate Research and Scholarship Committee approve the January 14, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.*

**Carried by general consent.**

**Business Arising** It was requested that the meeting minutes of December 17 be revised to remove comment attribution. Senate staff undertook to revise the minutes and bring the draft back to the Committee for re-approval in March.

**Draft Policy V-300: Research Centres and Research Institutes** The Committee has undertaken to develop a draft Senate policy on Centres and Institutes, potentially using draft Policy V-300 as a starting point. It was noted that while the recent Senate approval of the Centre for Migration Studies went smoothly, it also highlighted the need to revisit the policy and develop a more robust process than what currently exists on the Vancouver campus.

Draft Policy V-300 is dated 1 September 2019, which means that it predates the establishment of the Research and Scholarship Committee. It was noted that there is an overall lack of documentation and background information on the draft. It is uncertain what considerations were involved in preparing the text. The Committee must decide whether to use the draft as a starting point or potentially start over from scratch.

It was argued that the draft is difficult to work with due to the lack of clarity around its fundamental principles. It would be best to develop a set of basic principles, clearly define the purpose and goals of the policy, and then proceed to work on the draft.

It was argued that the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses present two very different contexts with respect to centres and institutes. While the Okanagan Senate has seen fit to adopt a policy (Policy O-5) which substantially mirrors draft Policy V300, that approach would not work well on the Vancouver campus.

Committee members generally agreed that it is very important for the policy to employ a set of clearly defined key terms. Draft Policy V-300 states that the words “centre” and “institute” have the same meaning as they do in the University Act and in applicable Board and Senate policies; but these words are not used in the University Act in this sense, nor are they clearly defined in any other UBC policy.

Committee members generally agreed that existing processes related to the approval of GREx (Global Research Excellence) Institutes may offer a model worth emulating in some respects. Centres and institutes should ideally have a minimum standard of appropriate governance. It is also useful to establish a clear set of criteria against which proposed centres and institutes may be measured.

Committee members questioned what is the most appropriate role for the Committee in assessing proposed centres and institutes. There were concerns that the Committee may be put in the position of evaluating academic viability. It was stated that this is not really the role of the Committee nor is it a viable option given the disciplinary expertise needed to assess proposals.

It was agreed that the policy should reference in some form the importance of alignment with UBC’s official strategies, plans, etc. The Indigenous Strategic Plan and Inclusion Action Plan were mentioned specifically.

It was suggested that it would be useful to conduct an environmental scan of relevant policies at comparable Canadian universities to obtain a sense of how these issues are handled elsewhere. It was also suggested to conduct a scan of UBC centres and institutes to provide examples of well-established, well-governed centres and institutes, and also to illustrate the diversity of organizations which refer to themselves as centres or institutes. Senate staff undertook to begin researching these topics and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

**Other Business**

The Committee received a brief update on work towards engaging with the Indigenous Strategic Plan. More work is still needed to identify the most fruitful approach to addressing this topic. The Committee can expect to hear more about this at a future meeting.

The Committee received a brief update on work towards implementing recommended governance for the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. The

PWIAS now has a new budget approved and a new line of programming already announced. The university continues to work on bringing PWIAS governance more into line with modern governance structures. More updates on this topic can be expected in the months to come.

**Next Meeting** The Committee's next meeting will be held on March 18, 2022, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.