

Strategic Research Plan (2018-2023)
Council of Research Directors
November 14, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Agenda Item	Notes
Chair Welcome	Chair spoke to the importance of the SRP and gave Council members the process of developing the new SRP
Review current SRP -	Celia Haig Brown, AVP Research gave members an overview of the SRP and the current process being undertaken. Referenced SRP website and encouraged members to provide comments through the website feedback portal following the meeting.
Audience Comments/ Discussion	<p>Recommended integrating PIER into the SRP- making progress in intensifying research will accomplish our larger goals</p> <p>Council member commented to clarify that PIER is principle based and concept based, a plan that we can localize in our Faculties- the SRP is thinking more programmatically- weaving principles that would be able to support wide initiatives will be important.</p> <p>Innovation York What does the evolution of Innovation York (IY) mean for the SRP? How important is the translation of our work outside of the university to fully realizing our objectives</p> <p>Commented that member is impressed with IY, practical and incredibly supportive, well-constructed and nimble. However felt that support for social innovation or equity oriented innovation is acutely need and that branding feels pro-business- could benefit from some attention to nomenclature. For example innovation with UN agencies, NGOs etc. are important sources of innovation, both publically privately funded. Some attention to that would be important within IY.</p> <p>Chair clarified that social innovation has been recently integrated into IY, but suggested that the social aspect profile may have been lost with the merger.</p> <p>VPRI to need to look at redefining the five areas of IY- how to present it in a way that is more appealing to the community (VPRI to follow up with S. Howe).</p> <p>Research Metrics Inquired about the change (increase) in NSERC funds as a part of the tri-council funding slide presented- specifically regarding the total funds agencies distribute changing from year to year.</p> <p>Chair clarified that there is change from year to year. Chair noted that this is the first year that there has been no increase in federal funding to the tri-councils. Further noted the SSHRC decrease over the last few years, due to the increase in competitiveness at that Council.</p> <p>Inquiry about the previous federal government’s heavy investment in research translation and the impact on our tri-council numbers</p> <p>Chair agreed there has been an emphasis there. Noted the current government’s focus on more targeted funding eg: CFREF.</p>

Metrics- publication outputs

Member inquired about how are the subject areas are chosen within database and how the classification is done. *Note SciVal uses a subject classification by the All Science Journal Classification – this is the default scheme in SciVal with 27 major fields (more info:

http://www.csg.org/programs/knowledgeeconomy/images/appendix_d.pdf)

Chair highlighted the new data position that VPRI will be hiring will be able to focus their efforts towards adding journals to be considered by SciVal in broadening the scope of publications within the database.

Inquiry on how we might help to capture other types of publications ie: monographs in history? Would it be possible to obtain it from a CV analysis exercise? Chair explained that it is a challenge- the CV exercise does not allow us to mine data from faculty CVs. However we do use the annual ORU reports to collect some related info

Member stressed that researchers have to decide where they want to publish, and where they can maximize the impact of work rather than volume - careful attention must be paid to where researchers are publishing – focus should be on reputable journals

Inquiry regarding the other non-English publications and if they are captured by the database that we are utilizing. Chair clarified that only English language publications are captured-no international publications appear in the database.

Journal publications

Remarked on many researchers that are reluctant to publish in journals with pay walls, especially in social science and humanities disciplines- there are issues around open access. Chair agreed some journals require significant pay walls, and that the Institution will consider ways to support that- especially with higher ranked/ profile journals. Noted that SSHRC is now incorporating/building that into research awards- although this is new.

Comment that CIHR uses “Pubmed Canada” and some consideration by SSHRC and NSERC to find a similar vehicle for researchers. Chair mentioned that final pre-publication draft is not covered by publishers copyright – repository at the library. This area to be addressed in the SRP to help foster success.

Member inquired if there is a mechanism to boost international co-authored publications even more so- as it is positive for the university’s reputation.

Chair noted that the province and federal governments pay particular attention to the international co-authored publications as a measure. Further commentary disagreed and instead would recommend focus on other areas in making positive change as we already rank highly with international co-authorships. .

Updating the Plan

Remarked that Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research has identified Artificial Intelligence as a strategic focus- specifically big science and health and human systems. With further implications for new technology innovations in public health. Suggested should consider expanding opportunity area to look at social implications.

Chair stressed that the area would take a multidisciplinary approach and be inclusive to a broad range of research around the university

Member suggested that tools around big data and questions about how big data is employed should be included.

There was member agreement on the Artificial Intelligence focus, and not losing out on available funding opportunities
Chair remarked that the funding and focus are significant and both levels of government are seeing this as a priority area.

Member inquired about the SHARP budget model- having a big impact on the transdisciplinary/ collaborative research at the university and/or within ORUs. Suggested that the model is not enabling research and adds a financial cost to engaging in research outside of a specific Faculty. Chair noted that there have been some challenges where some Faculties are more reluctant to fund some research- there is a need to stress more interdisciplinary research across Faculties.

Member noted that the institution has focused heavily on tri-council funding in the past, which brings in no overhead for the social science disciplines. Researchers have discovered funding opportunities outside of the traditional agencies, such as community organizations. Institution should move away from current model of just collaborations with other academic institutions, but also collaborative partnerships with community organizations who have expertise in certain community concerns but do not have the structure to pursue/research these issues further.

Chair stated that the institution is happy to engage in affiliation agreements and has done so successfully in the past with external organizations. This allows the organizations ability to use York services, such as Research Accounting, to manage the finances.

Member suggested adding more external members on the SRP Advisory Committee would help further explore the community partnerships suggested. Chair replied that 3 consultation sessions were held with the external community for the last SRP, and a similar plan is in place for the current SRP consultation as well.

Chair thanked members for attending and contributing to a rich discussion. Asked CRD members to send comments or questions through the online feedback portal.