

Strategic Research Plan (2018-2023)
Faculty of Graduate Studies
November 2nd, 3pm

Agenda Item	Notes
Chair Welcome	<p>C. Haig-Brown presented on behalf of VPRI. Chair welcomed audience and extended thanks for joining. Reminded audience of importance of the Plan as the strategy for research, scholarship and creative activity over the next five years. Noted the necessity of the Strategic Research Plan (SRP) as an external requirement for funding agencies, but also as an essential internal document to articulate how we envision research as an institution.</p>
Review Objectives of current Strategic Research Plan and progress towards goals.	<p>C. Haig-Brown led audience through slides beginning with the overview context of the current SRP and PIER. Noted that the current SRP aimed to reach beyond disciplinary boundaries and represent the breadth of the research community within the comprehensive research strengths. Highlighted the areas of opportunity for the strategic development of research where more community input may seek to update and refresh areas to enable advancement of research over the next five years. Noted the Plan for the Intensification and Enhancement of Research (PIER)- sets out key recommendations that aim to support research initiatives in local IRPS and strengthen all aspects of York’s research enterprise.</p> <p>Recognized Advisory Committee members including the Graduate student representative Dessi Zaharieva (present at meeting). Encouraged dialogue with those Advisory Committee members around the university and within Faculties as an additional channel for feedback.</p> <p>Highlighted specific reference to Graduate Student objectives within the current Plan, page 28, section ‘Research in Education’ Discussion of Progress through metrics: see slides 6-11</p>
Audience Comments/ Discussion	<p>Comment on graduate student office space as area for needed improvement, in particular in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Remarked that more space would be linked to greater efficiency and graduate scholarship overall. Chair noted space as ongoing challenge that is being worked on.</p> <p>Stressed the challenges and confusion with financial structure of graduate funding and issues with communication of funding model for graduate students new to the York system. A particular concern was expressed on the “clawing back” of funds when significant external awards are achieved. Chair noted the challenges and complexities of graduate funding and stressed the need for early communication to incoming Graduate students on York policy for funding related to external awards.</p> <p>Recommended that socially engaged research be featured as a larger priority within the Plan. Further, suggested the inclusion of more Indigenous research, as scholarship is growing in this area, in particular response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report.</p>

	<p>Noted challenges with the hiring of graduate students. Suggested more consideration to eliminating barriers to ensure more engagement of our graduate students in the research enterprise at York.</p> <p>Inquired about York’s Postdoctoral Fellows and whether York is seeking to recruit from outside York or looking to retain our PhDs. Chair emphasized priority given to increasing our Postdoctoral Fellows. Noted some funding variables depending on the discipline as well as granting agency support; outlined funding mechanism at York for PhDs who complete in 4 years.</p> <p>Recommended Plan address the internal financial mechanisms that may create silos, so students can continue to engage in interdisciplinary scholarship. Chair noted the expectation that Deans will engage in conversation to help facilitate more interdisciplinarity.</p> <p>Suggested a mechanism to help expand our base of international students especially for doctoral students, recommended an international scholarship. Further noted funding for PDFs, referenced MITACS funding requiring some matching funds which can be challenging, suggested VPRI may support this. Chair noted importance of international students. Consideration will be given on how to better support these students.</p>
Closing	<p>Chair encouraged all audience members to provide their feedback as part of the SRP process. Noted upcoming consultation dates as well as online feedback option.</p> <p>Mentioned possible Postdoctoral Fellows feedback session to be confirmed.</p>