

**Strategic Research Plan (2018-2023)  
Launch & Open Forum**

Agenda Item	Notes
Chair Welcome	<p>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> <p>Chair gave overview of agenda and consultation process.</p> <p>Introduced SRP Advisory Committee, both listed as well as those members in attendance. Encouraged dialogue with those Advisory Committee members around the university and within Faculties and an additional channel for feedback.</p>
Review Objectives of current Strategic Research Plan	<p>Chair highlighted the 6 areas of research strength which are interdisciplinary in their expression- a strong characteristic of York. Further, 5 areas of opportunity where strength was emerging, or saw particular opportunities in the external environment where there was an aspiration to make an impact- for example “Engineering Research that Matters” with the Lassonde School of Engineering.</p> <p>Chair described the institutional planning changes in the surrounding environment since 2013, none of which were contained within the SRP 2013-2018. The University Academic Plan (2015-2020) which features research notably, more so than previous plans. The Strategic Mandate Agreement, a contract with the government that includes 2 out of 5 areas on research and innovation. The Plan for the Intensification and Enhancement of Research (PIER), is a more operational plan on how we can intensify research and scholarship at York.</p> <p>Chair gave overview of some significant research successes at York over the past 5 years.</p> <p>Discussion of Progress through metrics: see slides 14-28</p>
Other Considerations for SRP 2018-2023	<p>Chair outlined both infrastructure projects and research growth that may be considerations for the SRP 2018-2023, asking how do York’s progress and new developments impact the new SRP? New developments including, the new campus in Markham expected to be open in 2021, and other infrastructure projects- subway opening, 2017; Science refresh, 2018; Schulich expansion, 2018; Engineering II and Sherman Health Science Research Centre expansion. Noted the dramatic increase in activity in the innovation space at York with our Innovation York Office. Established in 2012 with 3.5 people to 2017 with 15 people with multiple incubator spaces including our newest innovation space- YSpace in Markham.</p>
Questions for Input/ Audience Discussion	<p>Chair posed questions to the audience for their consideration and feedback:</p> <p>Does the format of current SRP serve us well?</p> <p>Do the areas of comprehensive research strength need to be adjusted?</p> <p>Are opportunities still relevant and how can their description be improved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eg. Engineering is now fully formed and we can say more about our objectives</li> <li>- New areas that have emerged such as artificial intelligence</li> <li>- As our success in health-related initiatives has grown over the past 5 years should we be looking to reformulating the opportunity?</li> </ul>

Questions & Comments:

Faculty Planning: Noted that many Faculties have their own strategic research plan, however Faculties are now aligning their research with their integrated resource planning and considering differentiation activities based on the Strategic Mandate Agreement. Agreed that it will be important for Faculties to inform the SRP in a way that strengthens in a comprehensive way.

ORUs: Commented that Faculty-based ORUs are becoming obsolete given the trans-disciplinary trend in research, suggested ORUs be reconsidered. Recommended name change- "Research Centre" is more appealing than Organized Research Unit (ORU). Recommended that York moves away from creating more ORUs as the Faculty level and retain a few select institutional ORUs that will strengthen comprehensive research.

SRP Process Approach: Chair noted a general satisfaction with the current SRP, a sentiment that has been expressed to him widely; therefore floated the question of whether an update rather than a complete

Feedback in the room was supportive of the need to update rather than completely restart the SRP

Chair explained that there is no planned external review of the current SRP, however noted that external reviews have been utilized when evaluating policy and programs within VPRI.

Inquiry about the evolution of other institutional SRPs and if examples have been considered. Chair stated that SRPs at other institutions tend to be much more focused on specific areas and explicit investments- but given that our breadth is our strength at York, it is important to reflect that in our SRP, along with an emphasis on bottom up opportunities, which reflects our culture.

Metrics: It was suggested that we might look at how our research strengths are reflected in the data, and that integrating into the Plan, may be helpful in validating our strengths to our funders. Highlighted the decline in CIHR funding as an area of concern and suggested identifying this as a priority within the SRP. Chair noted that CIHR has become increasingly competitive with an expanding community. Noted the expansion of the Faculty of Health and the other initiatives that we are investing in, advancing our leading research eg: Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health may be expected to help reverse the CIHR trend and noted the need to emphasize.

Inquiry about the SMA2 and the resources available to faculty members to enhance and increase publication rates and obtain grants. Chair noted the ongoing meetings to discuss the engagement of the Faculties. Suggested that this will need to be articulated within the Plan.

Other areas of research strength: Suggested that Knowledge Mobilization be enhanced within the Plan as a separate area of research strength. Chair noted that KMB has now merged with Innovation York as an integrated innovation and entrepreneurship group. Will be highlighting the breadth of our knowledge mobilization activities within the Plan. Chair underlined the importance of utilizing

	<p>new media in communicating our research to a broader audience.</p> <p>Format: Suggested the Plan be written in a slightly more streamlined fashion so to play up strong collaboration among disciplines. Chair agreed to consider this as the Plan is updated. Advised that the culture aspect of research is missing in the current Plan. Highlighted the issue of support for middle career researchers. Suggested supporting ‘retreats’ with publishers and editors to assist researchers in meeting their research goals. Chair made mention of the research related teaching release program which provides additional time, noting hopes for future expansion of program. Strongly supportive of the representation of comprehensive research within the Plan, however with less mention of research with specific Faculty affiliations – research should be less siloed in that regard. Resistant to the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) for that reason- restricts university development by separating education from research.</p> <p>Chair noted that the future of the SMA will be decided next year in the Provincial election. Also stated that the current SRP tries to accommodate our broad research, and is representative of our values of a socially committed, research intensive university. The new Plan will still need to recognize the various disciplines at the university, but understand the emphasis for reducing the research silos within the Plan. It was suggested that the area of scholarship of socially engaged research should be framed differently, more as an umbrella as it isn’t specific but cuts across potentially everything in research.</p> <p>Altmetrics: Inquired about the priority of Altmetrics within the Plan. Highlighted the need as many types of research outputs not captured within the current metrics. Chair responded noting that the Plan for Intensification and Enhancement of Research (PIER) has recommended the development of alternative metrics and better understanding where we can better measure outputs. Noted that this is where PIER and the SRP intersect.</p> <p>Graduate Students: Recommended highlighting the training of our graduate and undergraduate students- HQP impact should be included within the Plan. Chair advised that this should be highlighted; an area that where the University has directed its focus over the last 5 years- noted experiential opportunities.</p>
Next Steps	Chair encouraged all audience members to provide their feedback as part of the SRP process. Noted upcoming consultation dates.