Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) Annual Plan for General Faculties Council 2026-2027

DATE: September 8, 2026
SUBMITTED BY: Connie Van der Byl, Chair of RSC

PRIORITIZED SUMMARY OF PROJECTED ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

As the research enterprise at Mount Royal University grows so does our approach to the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) of GFC. Based on feedback received, we have reduced the number of Working Groups and clarified member roles. The first shift is adding an Agenda Working Group to ensure that the most important topics in Research at MRU are being brought forward. Second, we have created a sustaining Steering Committee for Research and Scholarship Days. This event has grown substantially and previous Working Groups have identified the need for consistency year to year. RSC members are still invited to support the event through a Working Group but without the significant operational burden of previous years. The Undergraduate Research and AI in Research Working Groups will continue this year building on the important work completed last year. Research Data Management and Research Impact are being operationalized in the AVP RSCE's portfolio and throughout the faculties via the Associate and Vice Deans of Research.

We remain committed to our Charter in carrying out the following activities this year:

- Research policy review: Research Overhead and Indirect Costs
- Review of Research and Scholarship Plan Implementation
- Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship 5 year Renewal (and any potential new Institutes or Research Collaborations)
- Sharing of Research information, opportunities and initiatives

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

1. September 16, 2026
    - *Establish Working Groups*
    - *MRU Institute Annual Reports*
    - *Annual Plan*
    - *Review RSC Assessment Results 2026*

2. November 18, 2026
    - *Research Impact discussion*
    - *Working Group Updates*

3. January 20, 2027
    - *Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Renewal*
    - *Working Group Updates*

4. March 3, 2027
    - *Working Group Updates*

5. April 14, 2027
    - *Working Group Updates*
    - *Annual Report*
    - *The Year in Review - Research and Scholarship Plan Implementation*

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Connie Van der Byl	AVP, Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement, CHAIR
Trevor Day	GFC Academic Staff Member, VICE–CHAIR
Francine May	Designate for Dean, University Library
Melissa Deane	Director, Office of Research, Scholarship & Community Engagement
Cass Foursha-Stevenson	Chair, Human Research Ethics Board
Leah Hamilton	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Lena Soots-Haley	Institute Director
Celeste Pang	Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Uthpala Senarathne Tennakoon	Academic Staff Member (Business, Communication Studies & Aviation)
Jared Fletcher	Academic Staff Member (Health, Community and Education)
Jeella Acedo	Academic Staff Member (Science and Technology)
Richard Hayman	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Liv Lopez	Student Representative
Ally Smith	Student Representative
<u>Resources</u>	
Kenna Olsen	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Gwen O'Sullivan	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Mark Lafave	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Ray DePaul	Institute Director
Danah Duke	Institute Director
AnneMarie Dorland	Institute Director
Monazza Shabbir	Finance designate
Scott Corner	Marketing and Communications designate
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

For additional information and meeting minutes, visit the RSC webpage.

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