

**Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) Annual Report for General Faculties Council
2023-2024**

DATE: May 1, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Connie Van der Byl, RSC Chair

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Provide a forum where new research, scholarly initiatives and ideas can be discussed, reviewed in an inter-disciplinary context (RSC Charter Responsibility 4.3).

I have tremendous gratitude for this year's Committee Members who showed up to meetings with passion, knowledge, generosity and humour. Discussions were meaningful, honest and deeply beneficial to all agenda tasks, most especially drafting of Mount Royal University's Research and Scholarship Plan.

Guest speakers this year included: Kimberly Smith, Kimberly Smith, Research and Planning Consultant, Institutional Research & Planning; Zenith Bose, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Training Specialist for Researchers, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Anita Kemp, Facilitator for the Research and Scholarship Plan workshop.

Advise on the contents, objectives and orientation of the University's Strategic Research Plan and review annually (RSC Charter Responsibility 4.1).

The AVP Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement (RSCE) along with the Associate and Vice Deans of Research and the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC), with input from the Offices of RSCE, EDI and Indigenization and Decolonization, drafted and finalized the Research and Scholarship Plan (RSP) while engaging with the broader MRU faculty community. The Plan was recommended to GFC at the May 1, 2024 for a vote on approval at the May 18, 2024 meeting.

Establish, as required, subcommittees/work groups to address emerging issues as they relate to research, creative, and scholarly activities and develop proposals for addressing them. Provide advice on their content, interpretation and implementation (RSC Charter Responsibility 4.6).

The following Working Groups established for 2023-24 reflect areas of importance to the RSP and where the Committee has highly valuable expertise and knowledge. Each group demonstrated teamwork and dedication as they realized the key deliverables highlighted below :

- Community Engaged Research - working group efforts culminated in a Community-Engaged Research Lunch on March 25, 2024 where faculty researchers provided lightning talks to a large audience.
- Research Data Management and Dissemination - the group was able to revisit the strategy created in the previous year and also to consider research dissemination, especially with respect to open access.

- Research and Scholarship Days - an outstanding nine days from March 25 to April 5 where the focus was on student research dissemination.
- Undergraduate Research and Scholarship - the working group developed a scan of undergraduate research activity and was able to identify gaps that will be addressed through next year's working group and the ORSCE.

Review existing research-related policies and proposed new ones, if necessary, and provide advice on their content, interpretation and implementation (RSC Charter Responsibility 4.2).

The Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants Policy and Procedures were revised and reviewed and discussed by RSC at the following meetings: February 28, 2021 and April 3, 2024. The revised policy and procedures were recommended to move forward to GFC for information/discussion (April 19, 2024) and the Board of Governors for approval (May 28, 2024).

Review and recommend to the GFC on all proposals for the establishment, continuation, discontinuation or requirement for independent review of institutes at Mount Royal University (RSC Charter Responsibility 4.5).

Institute Annual Reports were reviewed at the September 27, 2023 meeting. The Institute for Environmental Sustainability was discontinued given achievement of its mandate with initial funding - a recommendation was made to GFC at the November 24, 2023 meeting.

At the November 8, 2023 meeting, RSC approved the Proposal for the Research Collaboration – QriTical: Queer and Trans Research Hub.

MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The following will be addressed in the 2024/25 academic year:

- Finalization of the RSP Implementation Plan in early Fall followed by monthly progress reports.
- RSC will review Intellectual Property and Commercialization Policies and Procedures for minor editorial changes.
- Existing Working Groups will be reinstated in 2024/25 with clear objectives given the foundational work and retrospectives completed this year. Working Group initiatives will be supported through the Office of the AVP RSCE.

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 (<i>rejoined in January; Sara Sharun until December</i>)
Melissa Deane	Director, Office of Research, Scholarship & Community Engagement
Lynne Lafave	Chair, Human Research Ethics Board
Kenna Olsen	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Ray DePaul	Institute/Centre Director
Samanti Kulatilake	Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Reza Chowdhury	Academic Staff Member (Business and Communication Studies)

Jared Fletcher	Academic Staff Member (Health, Community and Education)
Jeella Acedo	Academic Staff Member (Science and Technology)
Carolyn Willekes	Academic Staff Member (Teaching & Learning)
Brian Jackson	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Angela Faye Galeos	Student Representative
Luis Rios	Student Representative
<u>Resources</u>	
Leah Hamilton	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Gwen O'Sullivan	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Maggie Quance	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Danah Duke	Institute/Centre Director
Lena Soots	Institute/Centre Director
James Stauch	Institute/Centre Director
Michelle Yeo	Institute/Centre Director
Kearon Nyandoro	Finance designate
Scott Corner	Marketing and Communications designate
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

1. September 27, 2023
2. November 8, 2023
3. December 13, 2023
4. February 28, 2024
5. April 3, 2024
6. May 1, 2024

For additional information and meeting minutes, visit the [RSC](#) webpage.