
**Research And Scholarship Committee (RSC) Annual Report for General Faculties Council
2025-2026****DATE:** April 28, 2026**SUBMITTED BY:** Connie Van der Byl, Chair of RSC

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

As always, this year proved an interesting and rewarding experience. The RSC continually demonstrates a passion and commitment to supporting and augmenting the research and scholarship enterprise at Mount Royal University. Members are to be commended for their dedication, collaboration and strong capabilities.

In 2025-2026, the RSC tackled several interesting issues affecting research and scholarship both at Mount Royal University and across the post secondary landscape. A deep dive into Research Impact occurred through the Working Group's facilitation of discussion and definition development. We also benefited from a January 21 presentation by Dr. David Phipps, Assistant VP Research Strategy & Impact, York University and Network Director, Research Impact Canada. This group also tackled the MRU IP Commercialization Policy and Procedure.

The AI in Research Working Group developed a strong foundation and aligned with the institutional [AI Steering Group](#) and the AI Framework launching May 4. Details are provided in the Working Group Summary and Reports. Associated updates to the ORSCE Research and AI at MRU webpage can be found [here](#).

The Research Data Management Working Group began development of a Research Data Risk Classification Framework. The Framework will be completed once MRU ITS has finalized their institution-wide data governance strategy and procedure for the classification of information security.

Significant and deep work was completed by the Undergraduate Research (UGR) and Scholarship Working Group to assess the current MRU context for UGR and make recommendations for a path forward. Please see the full report.

Finally, the Working Group carried off another hugely successful Research and Scholarship Days 2026 March 30 to April 2, 2026. A huge thanks to this group and to volunteers who held our largest poster session to date. A change in venue and format resulted in a high energy atmosphere. Award recipients can be found [here](#). The week kicked off with a strongly attended Research Recognition Lunch that focused on Research Impact with a faculty panel and table discussions. Featured faculty profiles can be found [here](#).

The Committee is thanked for reviewing and approving two Institute 5-year renewals: The Institute for Community Prosperity (Executive Director Lena Soots-Haley presenting) and the affiliated Miistakis Institute (Executive Director Danah Duke presenting). Both Institutes have shown tremendous impact to MRU and the external community and have engaged extensively with MRU faculty and students.

The RSC also recommended a new Research Collaboration for approval. Carolyn Bjartvei, Faculty of Health, Community and Education provided an excellent presentation on the Child, Youth and Family Research Collective (CYFRC). The Collective was approved by ELT on April 22.

Working Group Summary and Reports *(included with the GFC Package only)*

- AI in Research
- Research Data Management
- Research Impact
- Research and Scholarship Days
- Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Recommendations from the working group's final reports will inform RSC's work next year.

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
Kenna Olsen	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Ray DePaul	Institute/Centre Director
Lin Young	Academic Staff Member (Arts)
Reza Chowdhury	Academic Staff Member (Business, Communication Studies & Aviation)
Jared Fletcher	Academic Staff Member (Health, Community and Education)
Tatiana Rogasevskaia	Academic Staff Member (Science and Technology) <i>(Jan-Current) (Jeella Acedo – until Dec)</i>
Brian Jackson	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Ambreen Abdul-Majid	Student Representative <i>(Jan-Current) (Noor Bata – until Dec)</i>
Meekena Erkin	Student Representative <i>(Jan-Current) (Celine Dixon – until Dec)</i>

Resources

Leah Hamilton	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Gwen O'Sullivan	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Sonya Jakubec	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Danah Duke	Institute/Centre Director
Lena Soots-Haley	Institute/Centre Director
AnneMarie Dorland	Institute/Centre Director
Monazza Shabbir	Finance designate

Scott Corner	Marketing and Communications designate
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

1. September 24, 2025
2. November 19, 2025
3. January 21, 2026
4. March 4, 2026
5. April 15, 2026

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