Research and Scholarship Committee
September 16, 2026 at 3pm – 5pm
University Boardroom A341

IN ATTENDANCE:

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)
Richard Hayman	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Liv Lopez	Student Representative
Ally Smith	Student Representative

Resources

Kenna Olsen	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Mark Lafave	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Ray DePaul	Institute Director
AnneMarie Dorland	Institute Director
Danah Duke	Institute Director
Monazza Shabbir	Finance designate
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

Guests:

Zenith Bose	Office of Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement
Rabia Haider	Office of Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jeella Acedo	Academic Staff Member (Science and Technology)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

1. **Approval of Agenda**
   Moved and seconded:
   THAT the Agenda for the September 16, 2026 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.
   Motion carried

2. Introductions

Round-table introductions were done.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

3.1. Minutes from April 15, 2026

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Minutes of the April 15, 2026 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. RSC Orientation

The following information was reviewed:

4.1. RSC Charter

4.2. RSC Meeting Schedule

4.3. RSC Membership

5. MRU Institutes Annual Reports

The following MRU Institute 2025-26 Annual Reports were provided in the meeting package and presented by each Institute Director:

- Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Report
- Institute for Community Prosperity Report
- Miistakis Institute Report

6. Building an Inclusive Research Environment: Action Plan for CRC's

Zenith Bose, EDI Training Specialist for Researchers, provided an overview of the development, purpose and various areas of the document, "Building an Inclusive Research Environment: Action Plan for CRC's" that was provided for review (CRC – Canada Research Chair). The document will be submitted to the Tri-Agency for review prior to its public release scheduled for November.

Questions were responded to for additional information and clarification on: tenure and promotion process and support (will be integrated within onboarding and mentorship), the scope of this public-facing document, and upcoming external CRC equity hiring targets (being discussed within ORSCE).

7. RSC Assessment Results 2026

The RSC Assessment Results were reviewed.

8. Establish Working Groups for 2026-27

The following proposed working groups were reviewed and confirmed for 2026-27:

- RSC Agenda Working Group
- Research and Scholarship Days

- Undergraduate Research and Scholarship
- AI In Research

9. Draft RSC 2026-27 Annual Plan

The draft RSC 2026-27 Annual Plan was reviewed.

10. Updates on Implementation of Research and Scholarship Strategic Plan 2024-30

C. Van der Byl provided updates on the implementation of the following areas of the RSP:

- Advancing Knowledge – Mobilize U had 8 participants; RRU collaboration - 40 faculty responses; SSHRC Results over the summer: $3505K for 5 awards; Overall in 25/26 $1.5 million in external funding including NSERC $239K, SSHRC $586K; other $676K (13%, 29%, 48% success rate). IRGF $140K for 20 projects.
- Informs Teaching – RAs in MRSA posting testing; In 2025/26 186 MRU undergrads plus Institutes – 1310 IIE, 25 ICP and 10 Miistakis.
- Community Engaged – Scale Up Gala held in June, Faculty level speakers and events.

11. Committee Chair Report

No report.

12. New Business

There was no new business.

13. Adjournment 4:18PM