Research and Scholarship Committee
September 24, 2025 at 4pm – 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 *(via Google Meet)*
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)
Jeella Acedo	Academic Staff Member (Science and Technology)
Brian Jackson	Academic Staff Member (University Library)
Noor Bata	Student Representative
Celine Dixon	Student Representative

Resources

Leah Hamilton	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
Gwen O'Sullivan	Associate Dean/Vice Dean responsible for research
AnneMarie Dorland	Institute/Centre Director
Sheena Dyer	Assistant University Secretary, GFC, RECORDING SECRETARY

Guests

Zenith Bose	Office of Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement
Meekena Erkin	VP, Academic, SAMRU
Rabia Haider	Office of Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement
Anita Kemp	Office of Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

1. **Approval of Agenda**
   Moved and seconded:
   THAT the Agenda for the September 24, 2025 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.
   Motion carried

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
   2.1. Minutes from April 30, 2025
      Moved and seconded:
      THAT the Minutes of the April 30, 2025 Research and Scholarship Committee meeting be approved.
      Motion carried

2.2.   Business Arising from the Minutes
There was no business arising from the minutes.

3.   RSC Orientation
The following information was reviewed:
3.1.   RSC Charter
3.2.   RSC Meeting Schedule
3.3.   RSC Membership

4.   Establish Working Groups for 2025-26
The following working groups were reviewed and confirmed. RSC members were encouraged to join at least one working group for this academic year, and to have their first meeting by the next RSC meeting (November 19). An overview of the focus for each group was provided:

- **Research Impact (including community engagement, DORA, IP and Commercialization)**
Topics: We've signed on to DORA - now what? Both the IP and Commercialization policies need to be updated this year - this group will review changes and provide input. Does the group have thoughts regarding community engagement more broadly?

- **Research Data Management (including Research Security)**
Topics: Execute on the recommendations of 2024-25 Final Report. Brainstorm training for Open Access including predatory journals etc. Consider implications of Research Security for data management and beyond. Revisit the Research Data Management Strategy for Actions needed.

- **Research and Scholarship Days**
Topics: The main focus of this group is to plan and execute on Research and Scholarship Days in early April 2026. This event keeps growing so scale and budget will need to be considered. A new approach was taken last year - are changes needed this year? ORSCE Administrative Assistant Rabia Haider will provide logistics and planning support and Scott Corner from Marketing and Communications provides vital direction.

- **Undergraduate Research (UGR) and Scholarship**
Topics: Execute on the recommendations of the 2024-25 Final Report which focus on the survey results from last year. Provide input into a plan for centralized UGR resources. Consider best practices for job postings and implications of the new Mount Royal Staff Association Collective Agreement's inclusion of RAs. Note: Undergraduate Research Dissemination Fund (URDF) Review Committee has been struck for reviewing MRU student applications for funding: Melissa Deane, Reza Chowdhury, Brian Jackson, Zenith Bose.

- **AI in Research**
Topics: This is a new Working Group that will focus on AI implications for Research. Some resources are currently provided on the Research website. In addition, a University AI Framework and associated Steering Committee is being created and last year an AI in Teaching and Learning Committee was struck. What more can be done at MRU regarding AI and Research?

5.   **Draft RSC 2025-26 Annual Plan**
      The Draft RSC 2025-26 Annual Plan was reviewed.

6.   **Research and Scholarship Strategic Plan 2024-30**
      6.1.   Annual Review of the Research and Scholarship Strategic Plan
      6.2.   Updates on Implementation of the Research and Scholarship Strategic Plan
              The Chair shared updates around implementation of the plan:
              ● Advancing Knowledge
                  ○ RSCE and Library worked together to develop information and share links to resources for the Narrative CV (available on both the ORSCE and Library websites).
                  ○ SRC IRGF - continued to build on last year's program improvements by conducting a survey that has informed further changes to the program designed to better support the committee.
                  ○ CA Article 14.8.4 - reduction in instructional load for external grant holders
                  ○ FAST for internal research grants
                  ○ OCAP and Mobilize U training
                  ○ Updated Internal Research Grant Fund (IRGF) process and training
              ● Informs Teaching
                  ○ RAs in the MRSA CA - implications and training under development
                  ○ Updated Undergraduate Research Dissemination Fund (URDF) process and training.
                  ○ Hired and onboarded the second cohort of student leaders into the Undergraduate Research Student Leadership Program.
              ● Community Engagement
                  ○ AVP RSCE attended and presented at Annual Research Impact Canada Meeting

7.   **Committee Chair Report**
      No report.

8.   **For Information**
      8.1.   MRU Institutes Annual Reports
              The MRU Institutes Annual Reports were received for information.

9.   **New Business**
      There was no new business. A question was responded to for additional information regarding Research Assistant's inclusion in the MRFA Collective Agreement, including training opportunities for faculty.

10.   **Adjournment   4:31PM**