

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY and ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Caroline Tait, Chair

DATE OF MEETING: June 19, 2014

SUBJECT: **Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee
Annual Report to Council**

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Recommending to Council on issues and strategies to support research, scholarly and artistic work.
2. Recommending to Council on policies and issues related to research integrity and ethics in the conduct of research, scholarly and artistic work.
3. Recommending to Council and providing advice to the Vice-President Research on community engagement and knowledge translation activities related to research, scholarly and artistic work.
4. Providing advice to the Vice-President Research and reporting to Council on issues relating to the granting agencies which provide funding to the University.
5. Providing advice to the Vice-President Research, the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research on the contributions of undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to the research activity of the University.
6. Examining proposals for the establishment of any institute or centre engaged in research, scholarly or artistic work at the University and providing advice to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council.
7. Receiving annual reports from the Vice-President Research and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.
8. Receiving and reporting to Council the University's research ethics boards' annual reports.

9. Designating individuals to act as representatives of the committee on any other bodies, when requested, where such representation is deemed by the committee to be beneficial.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013/2014

Council Members

Rainer Dick	Physics & Engineering Physics
Paul Jones	School of Environment and Sustainability
Yu Luo	Biochemistry
Jaswant Singh	Veterinary Biomedical Sciences
Julita Vassileva	Computer Science

General Academic Assembly Members

Pam Downe	Archaeology and Anthropology
Tim Nowlin	Art and Art History
Caroline Tait (Chair)	Psychiatry
Keith Willoughby	Edwards School of Business

Student Members

Jordan Sherbino/Desiree Steele	VP Academic Affairs, USSU
Izabela Vlahu/Ranjan Datta	VP Academic, GSA

Ex Officio

Adam Baxter-Jones	Acting Dean, Graduate Studies and Research
Karen Chad	Vice-President Research

Resource personnel

Laura Zink	Special Projects and Operations, Office of the Vice-President Research
Susan Blum	Director, Research Services

Administrative support

Sandra Calver	Coordinator, University Governance
Alex Beldan	Committee Coordinator, University Secretariat

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Annual Report for 2013-14
2. Annual Report of the Vice-President Research for 2013-134
3. Annual Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research for 2013-14

**ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL
of the
RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE**

During 2013-14, the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee (RSAW) held 18 regular committee meetings. As the committee submitted a mid-year report to Council in January, 2014, the committee's annual report will focus on the committee's activities from January – June, 2014.

Much of the committee's efforts in the second half of the year focused upon writing and finalizing the report [*Undergraduate Research Initiative*](#), as presented to Council in May. The report was written in response to the university initiative led by the Vice-President Research in collaboration with the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning and the University Learning Centre to provide research opportunities to all undergraduate students across all university colleges. The report outlines a series of specific and practical suggestions in relation to this goal and poses questions where the RSAW believes further discussion and consideration is needed. Next year, the committee will follow-up to hear directly from faculty and students involved in the undergraduate research pilot projects presently underway and planned for 2014/15, at which time the RSAW will update Council again about this initiative.

The committee reviewed several draft policies relevant to researchers. The draft *Policy on Eligibility to Apply for, Hold and Administer Research Funding* was created to address the Tri-agencies increased accountability regarding eligibility, and the need to identify how any conflicts of interest relating to research funding will be handled. The *Policy on Research Administration* consolidates the former *Administration of Research Funds* and *Administration of Grants and Contracts* policies, which were merged to provide a single, comprehensive policy. The new policy outlines the responsibilities of the different parties, clarifies sponsored versus non-sponsored research, the negotiation of agreement terms and authorization, and provides expanded procedures related to research administration. Both policies are scheduled for review by PCIP and submission to the Board of Governors for approval in the fall of 2014.

The RSAW committee is responsible to approve the terms of reference for the [*Distinguished Researcher and New Researcher Award*](#) terms of reference. The committee updated the terms of reference of each award to reflect that the committee has the ability to designate a member of the General Academic Assembly to serve as the committee's designate on these selection committees and also that the member of the College of Graduate Studies and Research on the selection committees should be a full member of the college. This year, Dr. Ernest Walker of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology agreed to serve as the committee designate on these award committees.

The committee has been involved in previewing and providing feedback on demos of the [*UnivRS*](#) research administration system as stage 1 nears completion. The first stage of the

research process, known as “project idea,” has the capacity to record and track future research projects, build project teams, identify funding sources, develop documents, and lead to a conversion from “project idea” to “project application”, as desired by the researcher. The system is carefully designed to protect the intellectual property of the individual through the privacy and security provisions attached to the system. The system is also designed to have all internal approvals within the workflow of the system. UnivRS will unfold in four stages with associated timelines. Project idea is within *Stage 1: Pre- and Post-Award* (June 2013-Dec 2014). The other stages are: *Stage 2: Compliance, CV and CASRAI* (the Consortia Advancing Standards in Research Administration Information, an international not-for-profit organization working to standardize research administrative data) (Jan 2015-2016); *Stage 3: Publications and Advanced Reporting* (July 2016-Dec 2017); and *Stage 4: Clinical Trials and Graduate Students* (Jan 2018-June 2019).

The RSAW received the results of the [national survey on post-doctoral fellows](#) coordinated by The Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars and Mitacs, a national, not-for-profit research organization. The concerns and issues regarding post-docs are national in scope. There is no uniform funding for post-docs and variable salary and benefit packages apply. Members acknowledged the uncertainty faced by postdocs, particularly in terms of categorization and status, leading to lack of a social safety net and emphasized the importance of postdocs relative to the research success of the university. Members requested that the committee be kept informed as to the university’s involvement with and work with postdocs to rectify the issues raised and noted that many of the issues raised could be ameliorated with some attention and communication.

I am pleased to report on the work of the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee and extend my appreciation to all members for their positive engagement, attendance and thoughtful discussion. I look forward to serving as committee chair in the coming year.



Caroline Tait, Chair

Report of the Vice-President Research

To the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee of Council

For the period May 1st, 2013 to April 30th, 2014

It has been a pleasure over the last year to work with colleagues, researchers and external partners as we continue to develop the University of Saskatchewan as a place of discovery with impact. This has been an exciting year for U of S research, as we are seeing many of our past efforts come to fruition and have a positive effect on our research environment. We look forward to working with the entire university community to continue developing these initiatives and supporting individuals, groups and units in all their research activities.

I am pleased to provide an overview of key accomplishments and activities of the Office of the Vice-President Research for the period May 1st, 2013 to April 30th, 2014.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND PORTFOLIOS

Strategic Planning: Development of College Research Strategies

- A key deliverable of IP3 is the development of individual college/school research strategies. This is the first time colleges/schools have been asked, on an institution-wide basis, to develop research strategies. Each college's plan will both identify discovery and creation goals, and describe how these goals will be advanced through: articulation of areas of research focus, complement planning for highly qualified personnel (faculty, students and PDFs), development of the research environment (infrastructure and program/services), and development of a strategy for collecting research metrics.
- The Associate Deans Research or Dean's designate led development of the college research strategies. Following submission in Fall 2013, each strategy was reviewed extensively by the OVPR executive team and the compiled feedback was endorsed by PCIP.
- In May 2014, ADRs will receive written feedback, including both individualized recommendations and common themes for improvement found across colleges. Colleges will revise their strategies for submission in December 2014 after which they will be publically shared.

Successful Proposal: Canada Excellence Research Chair

- The OVPR led the development of a phase I application for a Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Integrated Infectious Disease Mitigation. The CERC review committee called the proposal "one of the most exciting and exceptional proposals submitted to the program."
- A rigorous candidate search was launched in the fall of 2013. With a candidate selected, the OVPR submitted the phase II proposal in February, with a final decision in June 2014.

Improving e-Services for Researchers: UnivRS

- The University Research System (UnivRS) was identified as one of the university's top priorities in its third integrated plan. The system is jointly sponsored by the Office of the Vice-President Research

and the Vice-President Finance and Resources. The plan for implementation received Board approval in May 2013.

- UnivRS is a single, web-based system that provides opportunities for researchers within and outside the U of S to collaborate on research projects securely, including online proposal development, submission of research and ethics applications, and electronic signatures. It will serve as a central repository to collaboratively manage all research project activities, including pre- and post-award and compliance processes, such as human ethics, animal care and biosafety.
- UnivRS will roll out over a five year period and will release functionality in stages; each stage is scheduled to take 12-18 months. The goal is to fully implement UnivRS by 2019.
- Stage 1 – pre-and post-award management – will be released to Research Services in summer 2014, with further deployment across campus in the months subsequent to the summer release. Stage 2 will focus on compliance (i.e., human ethics, animal care, and biosafety) and publications.

Supporting New Faculty: Research Mentorship Program

- Nearing the completion of its second year, the Research Mentorship Program links newly hired faculty members with a personalized research mentorship team to assist the new faculty member in creating a 5 year research plan. The program was established to: improve research success for new faculty; enhance the teacher-scholar model across campus; and, advance the U of S's research-intensive culture.
- The U of S is the only U15 university with a research-focused mentorship program.
- Over two years, 36 new faculty members from 10 different colleges and schools have participated, amounting to half of the 71 new hires.
- Mentorship teams are composed of 2-4 individuals including senior faculty and the department head/ADR. The program also involves semi-annual workshops for new faculty and annual training for mentors.
- A review of the first year was completed in the summer of 2013, with very positive feedback overall. 77% of participating new faculty said their mentorship team had been helpful in developing a five-year research plan. 89% of mentors felt they had "been able to contribute [...] to the 5-year research vision/plan of the new U of S faculty member."
- The program's second year will be evaluated in May 2014, and efforts are underway to ensure that all new faculty members are provided with a mentorship team.

Improving Funding Success: Internal Review and Tri-Agency Leaders

- The OVPR's internal review process continues to help researchers secure Tri-Agency funding.
- Internal review is available for the following grants: CIHR Operating, NSERC Discovery, SSHRC Insight, SSHRC Insight Development, and SSHRC Partnership Development
- Assessments of the CIHR and SSHRC programs demonstrate improved success rates:
 - In 2013-14, SSHRC Insight applicants who participated in Internal Review were nearly three times more successful than individuals who did not participate.
 - In the two 2013 CIHR Operating Grant competitions, 33% of internally-reviewed applicants were successful, compared to 7% (one individual) who was successful

without internal review.

- Please see the attachment pages for further details.
- The internal review process is led by the OVPR's Tri-Agency Leaders, highly respected faculty who have been seconded to support the success of their colleagues in securing tri-agency support. In 2013-14 the Tri-Agency Leaders were:
 - SSHRC: Bram Noble (Geography and Planning)
 - CIHR: Roger Pierson, (Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences) and Troy Harkness (Anatomy and Cell Biology)
 - NSERC: Tom Steele, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics

Facilitating Interdisciplinary Collaboration: One Health Initiative

- To accelerate the development of One Health research and training opportunities, the OVPR has helped to develop the One Health Initiative. Comprising more than 40 faculty members from a variety of colleges and schools, a collaborative effort is being made to advance this signature area and establish the U of S as a leading One Health institution.
- Led by Hugh Townsend and Bruce Reeder, the Initiative secured \$400,000 from PCIP and the Council of Health Science Deans. Four seed grants of \$20,000 have been awarded to interdisciplinary teams developing research projects in areas identified by the One Health group. Similar funding will be available next year, with the majority of the remaining funding to support the internationalization of One Health student training.
- Baljit Singh is leading the NSERC-CREATE-supported "Integrated Training Program in Infectious Disease, Food Safety and Public Policy." The program will train 78 graduate students from diverse disciplines and is the model for a future One Health Graduate Certificate Program at the U of S. PCIP funding has enabled the development of an international dimension to the program, which involves establishing partnerships with universities (including ones in Germany and India), supporting student exchanges, and participating in a rotating international summer school.
- The growing intensity of One Health research has also supported a successful phase I CERC proposal and a successful LOI for a U of S-led Network of Centres of Excellence (Phase II to be submitted in June) led by Baljit Singh, Volker Gerdt, and John Gordon.

Recruiting Top Talent

- In addition to the extensive CERC candidate search, the VPR has been involved as a board member in hiring top talent for leadership positions at the U of S's research centres, institutes and facilities. In the past year, these efforts included ongoing membership on the hiring committees for Executive Directors at both the Global Institute for Food Security and the Fedoruk Centre, and the completed search for the Canadian Light Source's new Executive Director.

Global Institute for Food Security

- 2013 was the foundational year for the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS). The Institute's vision is to catalyze food security research and innovation by engaging and supporting leading scientists, educators, innovators and students.

- In June 2013, GIFS identified three research and innovation themes linked to its mission to increase crop production, build a prosperous economy in Saskatchewan, and contribute to global food and nutrition security:
 - *Healthy soils for optimum crop productivity and agricultural sustainability.*
 - *Increasing resiliency of crops and cropping systems.*
 - *Capturing value in the global food supply system.*
- In July 2013 GIFS' first Call for Proposals was issued and in January 2014, four projects were selected for consideration, pending receipt of acceptable revised research plans. Final announcements will be made in the summer of 2014.
- In November 2013, Viterra became GIFS' first Innovation Partner through its contribution of \$2 million for operations and programs. The five year funding agreement makes Viterra the first grain industry partner.
- In April 2014 David Natcher became the first GIFS Enhancement Chair when he was appointed to a five-year term as the GIFS Research Chair in the Social Dimensions of Food Security.

Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation

- The Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation was established in 2011 as a separate not-for-profit corporation owned by the U of S. The Centre's purpose is to place the province among global leaders in nuclear research, development and training through investment in partnerships with academia and industry.
- In 2013-14 the Centre awarded \$3 million to 17 projects led by U of S researchers. Including partner contributions, these projects total over \$5.8 million.
- In support of academic programs, the Centre invited two full proposals from the U of S, one in nuclear medicine and the other in physical environmental research, in addition to a Letter of Intent with the U of R and an environmental scan on nuclear energy and safety.
- The cyclotron was delivered to the facility in April, 2014. The Fedoruk Centre will assume responsibility for operations, starting with regulatory commissioning in October 2014.
- Strategic Plan 2020 Saskatchewan's Future in Nuclear Innovation has been adopted (http://www.fedorukcentre.ca/docs/SK_FutureInNuclearInnovation.pdf).
- An international search for an executive director was launched in March 2013 and is in progress.

International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII)

- The International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII) was launched in 2012 to develop and implement innovative education, training, research and development partnerships for supporting a world-class minerals industry.
- In June 2013, the IMII committed to providing the U of S with \$1.67M over three years for the development and delivery of new mining courses leading to the creation of a mining option in three programs in the College of Engineering.
- The IMII also partnered with Mitacs and the U of S on a novel research and training initiative valued at more than \$600,000. Engin Özberk, IMII executive director, will act as the first Mitacs Industry Executive in Residence-Minerals, providing the U of S with leadership in the minerals research and innovation sector and catalyzing industry-researcher collaborations.

- In March 2014, IMII announced its commitment to support six projects focused on safety, the environment, and developing specialized training for the mining industry. The projects include two research and development projects worth \$1.1M and four education and training projects worth \$3.2M. The projects are spread across Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions including one project at the U of S.

Diversifying Research Culture: Undergraduate Research Initiative

- The Undergraduate Research Initiative is a collaboration between the OVPR and the Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning committed to ensuring the majority of students have the opportunity to experience research during their undergraduate degree.
- Priorities of the initiative include: making research opportunities more widespread across disciplines and academic years; designing research into the curriculum from first year onwards; and, improving the visibility and appreciation of undergraduate research.
- In January 2014, a pilot course was launched in the department of sociology to develop strategies for including research experiences in 100-level courses. Through this course, 340 students in two classes engaged in a research project.
- In September 2014, a full pilot will be launched, involving course-based research experiences in classes in Agriculture, Kinesiology, and Social Sciences.
- With the leadership of a new Undergraduate Research Coordinator, a community of action has been formed, composed of faculty interested in enabling undergraduate research at the U of S.
- Undergraduate Summer Research Assistantships were awarded to 76 researchers from 13 different colleges and units. The matching grants of \$2000 or \$4000 support researchers interested in providing an undergraduate student with a meaningful research experience.
- In February 2014, the inaugural issue of the University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal (USURJ) was published, with support from the OVPR.

Policy Development

- The Institutional Costs of Research Policy was approved by the Board of Governors and implemented on May 1, 2014. A flat rate of 25% is now being applied to all research agreements, replacing variable overhead rates. The change will ease negotiations with sponsors, create administrative efficiencies, and align U of S policies with fellow western U15 universities.
- The Human Research Ethics Policy and the Responsible Conduct of Research Policy were approved by University Council in June, 2013.
- Two other policies have been prepared and gone through the consultation phase, with PCIP and Board approval anticipated in fall 2014: the Research Administration policy and the Eligibility to Apply for, Hold, and Administer Research Funding policy.

Research Infrastructure Developments: Capital Projects

- The Vice-President Research is the Executive Sponsor for a number of large-scale capital projects. The projects are at varying stages of development within the University's *Major Project Planning Process*:

- Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Unit: a location for the new facility has been identified, and the project is in the design phase.
- Dairy Research Facility: the new facility has been completed, with occupation in August 2013.
- Canadian Feed Research Centre: construction of the facility is proceeding, with completion projected for August 2014.
- Phytotron Renewal: Phases I, II, and III are complete, and the facility is occupied.
- SCI-CS (Cyclotron): Construction is in progress, with completion expected in September 2014. CNSC licensing and commissioning is expected to be complete spring 2015.

Centres: Review

- The ongoing systematic review of Type B centres continued through 2013/14. Since the start of the process in 2011, four reviews have been completed: Division of Biomedical Engineering, Prairie Swine Centre Inc., Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre, and Toxicology Centre.
- Three reviews are currently being finalized: Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture; Centre for the Study of Co-operatives; Community-University Institute for Social Research; and further reviews are planned to be initiated in 2014/15.

Capitalizing on Opportunities: Synchrotron Sciences Initiative

- Working with strategic leads Graham George and Ingrid Pickering, the OVPR has been developing a framework to make the U of S Canada's leader in synchrotron sciences training.
- Based on experience gained through the CIHR-THRUST training program, the first step will develop comprehensive and interdisciplinary synchrotron programming at the U of S. The goal is to serve the Canadian need for specialized training while attracting top talent from overseas.
- TransformUS underscored the necessity of new structures to support interdisciplinary programming. The Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning is now working with the synchrotron strategic leads to develop a framework for the proposed synchrotron sciences programming.

Raised National Profile for U of S Research Partnerships in Signature Areas

U of S research strengths and partnerships were publicized in a variety of media in 2013-14. Selected signature area communications initiatives include:

- Synchrotron Sciences: The OVPR led a national campaign to highlight a unique \$750,000 NSERC-funded partnership among the U of S, SIAST and Federal Co-operatives Ltd. This included stories and photos in multiple major newspapers; a 6-minute video paid for by a special NSERC grant; and a half-page ad in a CFI supplement jointly funded by FCL, SIAST, and U of S. NSERC uses the video to encourage researchers and potential industry partners to apply for partnership program funding.
- Water Security: Stories for the StarPhoenix and other Post-Media papers on topics such as the Global Institute for Water Security's recent groundwater report.
- Food Security: Developed the national messaging, communications strategy and an event to announce the new \$90-M Canadian Wheat Alliance with NRC, Ag and Ag-Food, and SK Ag. Oversaw development of articles on the first four GIFS projects.

- **Aboriginal Scholarship:** Led a short video on a former Aboriginal graduate student for Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) website.
- **Student Research: Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge (SPARK) program:**
 - In 2013-14, the OVPR provided journalism mentorship to four graduate students who produced 14 Young Innovator profiles. The science articles were printed in the Saskatoon StarPhoenix and used to publicize U of S graduate student research, with an emphasis on signature areas.
 - Over nine years, 116 research stories have been published by the StarPhoenix, and more than 20 students have been mentored in journalism skills.

OVPR Internal Communications Initiatives

- Provided quarterly/annual research metric reports to colleges, enabling them to track research progress.
- Introduced monthly research updates to provide U of S community with highlights of recent funding successes, innovations in programs and services, partnership development, and new research-related initiatives.
- The Research website is currently being redesigned, in partnership with Communications and Information and Communication Technology, with launch anticipated in 2014.
- Initiated twice-a-year Annual Report by the VP Research to University Council.

Representing U of S Nationally and Internationally

- The Vice-President and Associate Vice-Presidents continue to represent the U of S as members of international delegations and on major research and innovation boards. 2013-14 highlights include:
 - The VPR served on 13 boards, ranging from the Executive Committee for numerous U of S Institutes such as VIDO, to providing a U of S voice at major national groups such as the U15 Vice-Presidents Research Committee
 - The AVPR-H represented the U of S on a number of health-related boards including membership with the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, and chairing the Kidney Foundation of Canada Allied Health Research Council
 - The AVPR sits on the Boards of U of S centres such as the Toxicology Centre Advisory Board and the Prairie Swine Centre Board of Directors
 - In January, the VPR also traveled to Ethiopia, strengthening ties with the U of S' long-standing partner Hawassa University and investigating further opportunities for student exchange and engaged research.

Awards Office

The Awards Facilitation Office works to help identify candidates and compile nominations for local, national and international faculty recognition awards. The awards facilitator provides direct support for major awards and prizes that recognize scholarship, teaching and outreach contributions nationally and internationally.

- From May 2013 to April 2014, 39 new nominations and 6 updates to previous nominations for awards were submitted in collaboration with the Awards Facilitator. Examples include nominations for: the Killam Fellowship and Killam Prize; the Royal Society of Canada; the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences; the Canadian Academy of Engineering; the Royal Society of Canada's new College of Scholars, Artists & Scientists; Fellowship in the Agricultural Institute of Canada; and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. Many of the decisions remain outstanding on nominations submitted over the past year.
- Recent successful nominations have included:
 - The **Killam Prize in the Humanities** was awarded to Jim Miller, recognizing his exceptional contributions to Native-Newcomer relations within Canada. Miller was also appointed to the **Saskatchewan Order of Merit**.
 - Karen Chad was named one of Canada's **Top 100 Most Powerful Women** by Women's Executive Network (WXN).
 - A **Global Capacity Award** from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry was awarded to John Giesy for his seminal studies and discoveries in the field of environmental toxicology.
 - Ajay Dalai was made a **Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineering** in recognition of his internationally recognized research in bio-energy and environmentally friendly chemical processing.
- The Awards Office continues to take a proactive approach to identifying potential candidates for awards. Regular meetings are held with department heads, Associate Deans of Research, and individual faculty to build relationships, promote award opportunities and build a culture of value and recognition at the U of S. The Vice-President Research also chairs the Faculty Recognition Advisory Committee (FRAC) which continues to evaluate and select candidates for major national and international awards and to strategize around improving the U of S awards profile and culture of faculty recognition.

Industry Liaison Office

The Industry Liaison Office facilitates the commercialization of research and knowledge developed by the University's researchers, faculty, staff and graduate students. The Office focuses on fostering and developing collaborative work environments among researchers, industry partners and funding agencies.

Development of collaborative commercialization and research relationships:

- Established over 500 contacts with industry globally.
- Successfully supported research proposals totaling approximately \$3 million.
- Provided program management to the Province of Saskatchewan, Hitachi-Japan, U of S research program – a large-scale effort involving seven discrete projects.

ILO metrics and successes:

- Active licenses/options to license
 - Completed: 8
 - Under final negotiation: 1
 - Research Agreement with exclusivity on arising IP: 1
- ILO-managed license and royalty revenue:
 - \$10.1 M (a slight increase from approx. \$10 M in 2012/2013)
- Marketplace sales of ILO licensed products since 2007 equaled approximately \$2.3 billion.
- Start-ups (companies based on U of S-owned technologies):
 - Opportunities under review: 12
 - Through the Saskatchewan Immigration Nomination Program (SINP), 6 immigrant nominees were successfully qualified who can provide investment funding and management expertise for U of S start-ups.
- Spin-offs (companies not based on U of S-owned technologies but developed by U of S stakeholders) :
 - 12 under assessment or receiving ongoing business support.

Industry Engagement Highlights:

- Held the 2014 “Technology Venture Challenge,” a business development competition for the university community:
 - 24 applications received; 12 finalists chosen with workshops and mentoring ongoing.
 - Mariner Innovations, Mercan, and Affinity Credit Union were added as sponsors for second and third place prizes. ILO sponsors the first place prize.

International Office

The International Office provides leadership, coordination, and support services to advance the internationalization of the university’s core missions of research, teaching and learning, and service.

Transforming internationalization at the U of S:

- Following a thorough environmental scan of other institutions, a white paper was developed which reviewed international structures at the U of S and described opportunities the university may wish to follow in the future.
- Joined CALDO, a consortium of Canadian universities, in January 2014. CALDO is designed to facilitate: attracting sponsored international graduate students to member institutions; building and sustaining partnerships with sponsoring agencies and their governments; and, leveraging those relations to foster broader academic collaborations with universities in the countries where CALDO

operates.

Country Strategy Implementation:

- In 2013-14, the International Office provided leadership, logistical, and operational support for a number of initiatives related to the university's emerging country strategy. The country strategy includes China, India, and Other initiatives, and the details of its implementation are still under development.
- As part of the China Initiative, highlight developments include signing agreements to establish flagship partnerships with the following institutions:
 - Huazhong Agricultural University in June 2013
 - Xi'an Jiaotong University in June 2013
 - Three agreements with Beijing Institute of Technology (Flagship Partnership, General Collaboration, and Dual Degree Program) signed in May 2013.
- As part of the India Initiative, highlight developments include:
 - Signing a Memorandum of Understanding for general collaboration with Banasthali University in August 2013.
 - Participation in the Conference Board of Canada mission to India to develop mutually beneficial relationships involving Canada's post-secondary education system in response to economic and social development opportunities presented by India's growth strategy (April 2014).

Partnership initiation and agreement development:

- 40 new agreements were signed in 2013-14: 26 general collaboration, 11 student exchange, 2 dual degree, and 1 funding support.
- Working with Research Services, ISSAC, and the College of Graduate Studies and Research, the International Office led the development of standard operating procedures for partnership initiation and agreement development to ensure a standardized process is followed across campus.
- Developed an international agreements database in 2013-14.

Delegation support:

- Provided support to 20 delegations, including approximately 100 people.
- Developed the delegations management database.

Communication and data collection:

- Prepared more than 50 briefing notes and reports for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education and university leaders in 2013-14.
- Acted as the first point of contact for government, international institutions, and many prospective international students and replied to more than 2400 requests.
- Launched the new International Office website in October 2013.

Office of Associate Vice-President Research – Health, U of S / Vice-President Research & Innovation, Saskatoon Health Region (SHR)

Renewed in 2011/12 following a full review, the AVPR-H / VPR&I's goal is to produce collaborative health research and innovation opportunities between the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Health Region (SHR), as well as other stakeholders.

2013 marked the first year the SHR made the list of the top 40 Canadian Research Hospitals (Research InfoSource). The SHR ranked 35th nationally, following a year in which it led all research hospitals in research income growth. 2013/14 was just the second year the Joint Office, in partnership with the OVPR's Research Services, submitted metrics for consideration.

Saskatoon Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR):

- SCPOR was created through the collaborative efforts of the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine, Saskatoon Health Region, and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. SCPOR provides support and services to researchers wanting to conduct clinical research from various fields either academic, governmental, or industry related.
- Within 2013-2014 SCPOR had:
 - 42 new studies, including 30 new industry sponsored studies
 - Produced a Clinical Research Handbook detailing the procedures clinical researchers will follow at the University of Saskatchewan (May 2013).

CIHR's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) and SUPPORT Units:

- The CIHR SPOR SUPPORT Unit is a major national initiative from CIHR. Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research Trials (SUPPORT) units are being developed across Canada to build provincial and national capacity for *patient-oriented research* and to provide resources and expertise for selected priorities of the provincial health systems.
- The AVPR-H office has been working to finalize the business plan for the Saskatchewan CIHR SUPPORT Unit, in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Advanced Education Employment and Labour, Saskatchewan Health Quality Council, E-Health, Saskatoon Health Region & Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Council of CEOs, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and First Nations University.
- Development of the proposal required an iterative process. A first draft proposal was submitted and initial feedback was received from CIHR's internal review committee in January 2014. This information is currently providing direction for the second draft which will be submitted to the CIHR International Review Panel at the end of June, 2014.
- The AVPR-H office also helped to facilitate the submission of the SPOR Network: Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations grant opportunity and the SPOR team has now moved on to Phase II.

Research Development Support:

- The AVPR-H office has been responsible for many projects within the office from analyses to literature reviews. A few highlights from the past year include:
 - 7 literature reviews: Nurses' 12 Hour Shifts, Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus, Environmental Scan for Mentorship Program, Continuity of Care, ED Waits and Patient Flow Initiative, Collaborative Nursing Models, and Labour and Delivery Nursing Models.
 - 164 new approved studies were performed within the Saskatoon Health Region's fiscal year (April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014), with 395 ongoing studies.

- Two new policies/procedures were developed and approved in the Saskatoon Health Region, including the Responsible Conduct of Research policy/procedure and the Intellectual Property policy/procedure, aligning SHR's policies with those of the U of S.

New Location for AVPR-H Office:

- At the end of 2013, the Joint Office moved back to the U of S campus after its three-year temporary location in Innovation Place. The office is now located at A102 Health Sciences Building, 107 Wiggins Road.

Research Ethics

The Research Ethics Office (REO) continues to play a leadership role in ethics and education in the responsible conduct of research.

Research Ethics Boards (REBs):

- The number of new research ethics applications to all REBs increased compared to 2012-13. Applications to the Biomedical REB have increased by 22% (from 300 to 367), the Behavioural REB has seen an increase of 2.4% (491 to 503) and the Animal REB has seen an increase of 1% (167 to 169). The REBs also approve or follow up on study renewals, study closures, amendments, protocol violations and serious adverse events.
- The decision-making of the University's Animal, Behavioural and two Biomedical Research Ethics Boards is supported by over 80 faculty, staff and community members.
 - Dr. Valerie Thompson chairs the University Committee on Human Research Ethics (UCEHR).
 - Dr. Brenda Allan is the acting Chair of the University Committee on Animal Care and Supply (UCACS).
 - Dr. Michael Corcoran chairs the Animal Research Ethics Board with Dr. Marcus Hecker as Vice-Chair.
 - Dr. Ildiko Badea is acting Chair of the Biomedical Research Ethics Board.
 - Dr. Beth Bilson chairs the Behavioural Research Ethics Board with Dr. Jamie Campbell as Vice-Chair.

Research Ethics Education:

- The research ethics education program includes college and departmental presentations, online courses, ethics drop-ins, one-on-one consultations, as well as small group and one-on-one animal handling training. The Research Ethics Office provided online research ethics and integrity training to 1592 graduate students this year through the courses GSR 960, 961 and 962.

Community Engagement Workshop:

- REO collaborated on a Community Engagement Workshop in October 2013 focused on promoting a supportive environment for Aboriginal peoples' health research in Saskatchewan. Over 110 participants attended the workshop, organized along with Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre (IPHRC), Regina Qu'Appelle Health

Region (RQHR) and the University of Regina. A report is forthcoming and will be posted on the SHRF website.

Research Ethics Harmonization

- Provincial research ethics review harmonization among the U of S, U of R, and RQHR has proven very successful with 67 studies handled through harmonized review in 2012-13 representing over 8% of studies submitted to the U of S Human REBs. So far this year, ethics reviews for 92 studies were harmonized representing 13% of studies submitted to the U of S Human REBs.
- Progress continues on harmonization among the U of S, University of Alberta and UBC in Western Canada.
- The U of S Research Ethics Boards (REBs) continue to be the Boards of Record for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, Saskatoon Health Region, Sunrise Health Region, and Five Hills Health Region.

Care and Management of Animals:

- The U of S report addressing the recommendations from the Canadian Council of Animal Care Assessment visit was submitted in January, 2014 and a response is forthcoming.
- The University Veterinarian has established the UCACS Tissue Share Databank as a means to reduce the number of animals used by providing researchers with tissue and blood from animals that are euthanized from other projects.

Responsible Conduct of Research

- New online ethics education programming is being developed for faculty, staff and post-doctoral fellows, scheduled to be made available by September 2014. This year the director of research ethics also delivered six full day, face-to-face academic integrity workshops for both international and non-international students.
- Three breaches of the Responsible Conduct of Research Policy were investigated this past year, including two cases of alleged plagiarism and one of alleged plagiarism and redundant publication.

Research Services

Research Services' mandate includes responsibility for grant/contract management, institutional programs, and international research. The unit has continued its efforts to provide excellent services to researchers on campus and to play a leadership role in implementing research administration best practices.

Data Management & Metrics

- An enhanced portal, the uView Report Portal, was launched in November 2013 to provide easier access to student and research data.
 - Users can access research award activity, standard reports (e.g. quarterly reporting) and customize their queries from institutional to the researcher level.

- Research metrics and analysis were provided for a variety of purposes including the U of S Achievement Record, TransformUS, senior administration, external surveys, and media.
- Preparations are being made to ensure compliance in preparation for a November 2014 Tri-Agency Monitoring Visit, including:
 - Supporting the steering committee, and planning and implementation efforts, including the requirement for an Institutional Approver.
 - Contributing to the development of communication and training information.
 - Participating in numerous well attended and received presentations/sessions on Tri-Agency administration to faculty, department heads, deans, and support personnel.

Funding Application/Contracts Metrics

- Funding application activity from May to April:
 - 2011/12: **1524**
 - 2012/13: **1569**
 - 2013/14: **1476**
- Contract activity from May to April:
 - 2011/12: **484**
 - 2012/13: **548**
 - 2013/14: **517**

Federal Indirect Cost Program

- 2013-14 FICP allocation was \$8.65M, a 1% decrease as compared to the 2012-13 allocation of \$8.75M.
- Funding was used for operating budget support (operating cost of space, management and administration, regulatory requirements, library resources) and research support (to fund Saskatchewan Structural Science Centre operations, intellectual property, management and administration, and more).

Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

- Funding was awarded for 17 regular John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF; formerly Leaders Opportunity Fund) projects (CFI \$3,764,460; total project \$9,411,156) and 1 JELF-CRC project (CFI \$195,533; total project \$488,232)

Canada Research Chairs (CRC)

- Two new CRCs awarded in April 2013:
 - 1 NSERC Tier 1 (promotion from Tier 2)
 - 1 SSHRC Tier 2
- One SSHRC Tier 2 awarded a renewal in November 2013
- Total CRCs at the U of S: 31

International Research

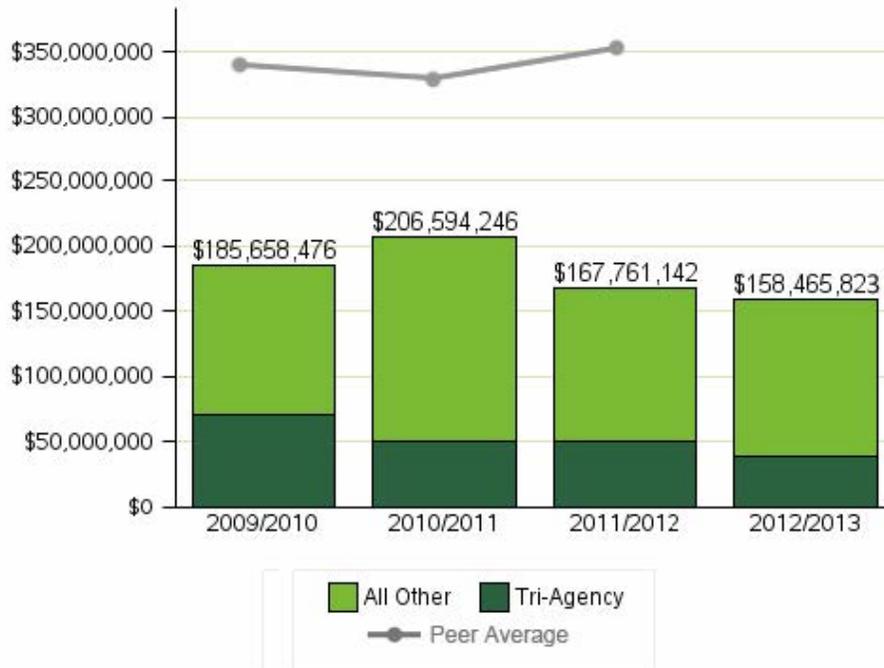
- A total of \$3.28M was awarded to U of S international research and development projects sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, International Development Research Centre, Grand Challenges Canada, and Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, etc.

Strategic Projects: Advancing Research Priorities and Initiatives

Originally introduced during IP2, the Strategic Projects Team is a critical arm of the Office of the Vice-President Research. The Team consists of recognized experts from both the academic and external environment who are recruited for limited terms to address emergent and strategic opportunities related to institutional research goals. The Team allows the U of S to nimbly respond to strategic opportunities. 2013-14 Strategic Project members:

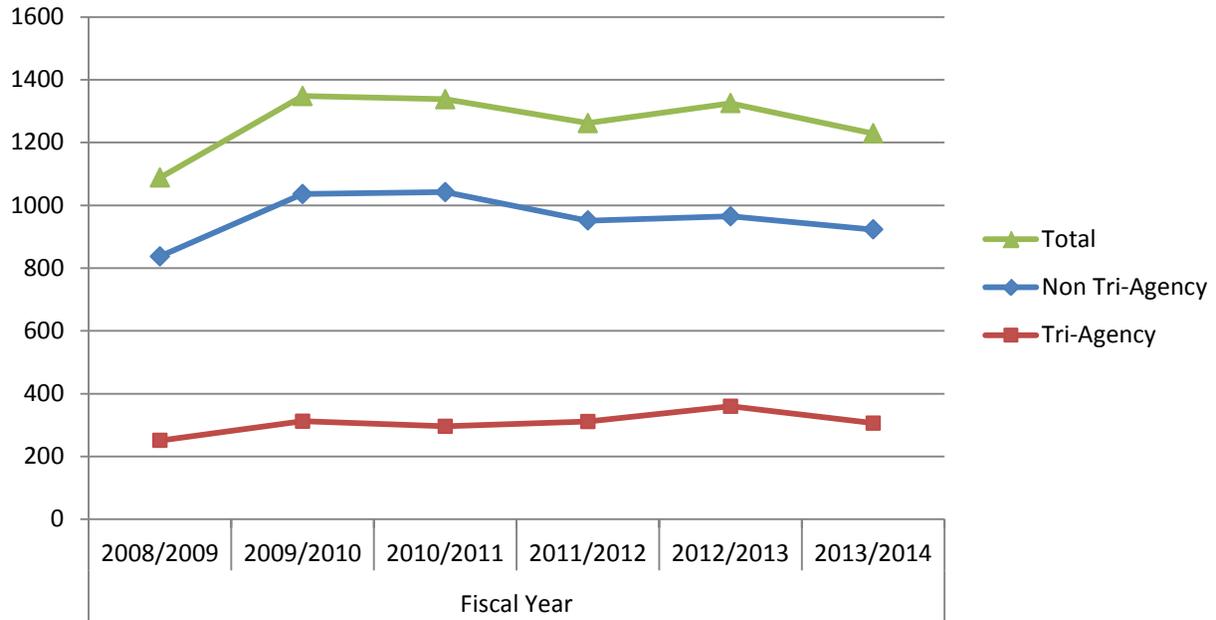
- Kevin Schneider (Computer Science, U of S) provided executive-level support to the UnivRS project which culminated in a successful Board proposal. Dr. Schneider also explored strategies for improved ICT resources/services for researchers, and facilitated development of ICT research.
- Robert Lewis (past-Director of the Monash Centre for Synchrotron Science) provided strategic advice related to BMIT educational, training and research activities, and supported instrumentation development strategic to the BMIT beamline.
- Gordon McKay (Past CEO and President, Pharmalytics Ltd.) took the interim role of Science Director of the recently launched Saskatoon Centre for Patient Oriented Research, and is a key member of a working group exploring the current and future research of the mass spec facility.
- Hugh Townsend and Bruce Reeder are the co-directors of the One Health Initiative and are leading the U of S' effort to support researchers in this signature area.

Institutional Research Revenue



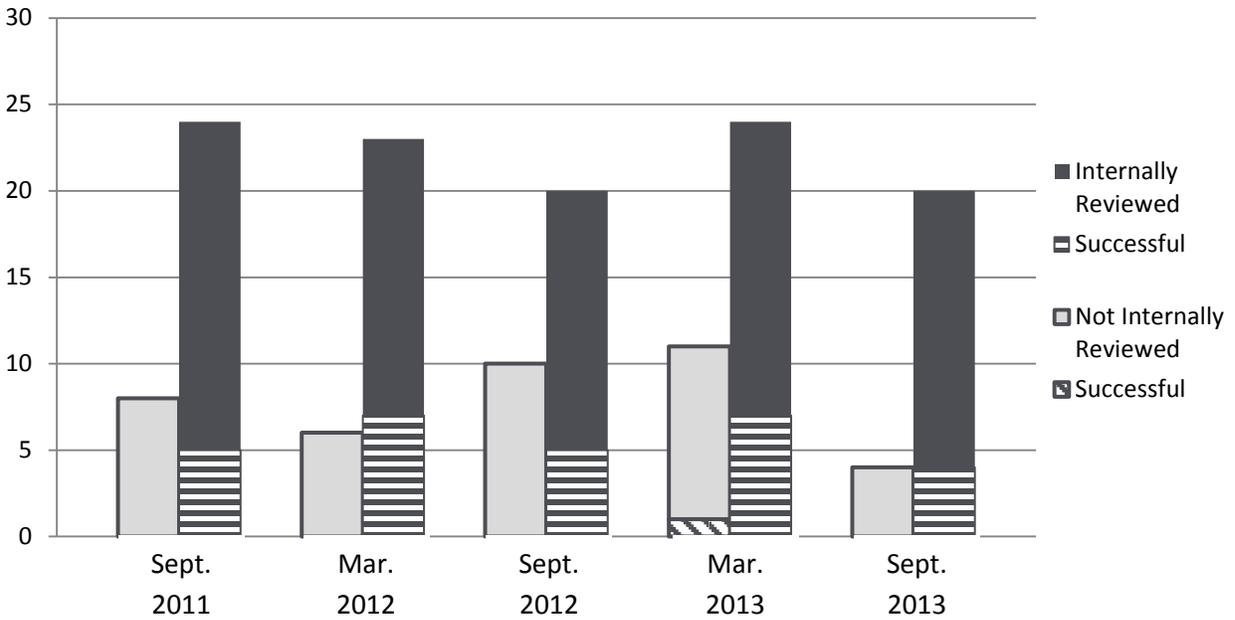
*2013-14 Data to be released August 2014

Number of Funded Research Projects Awarded



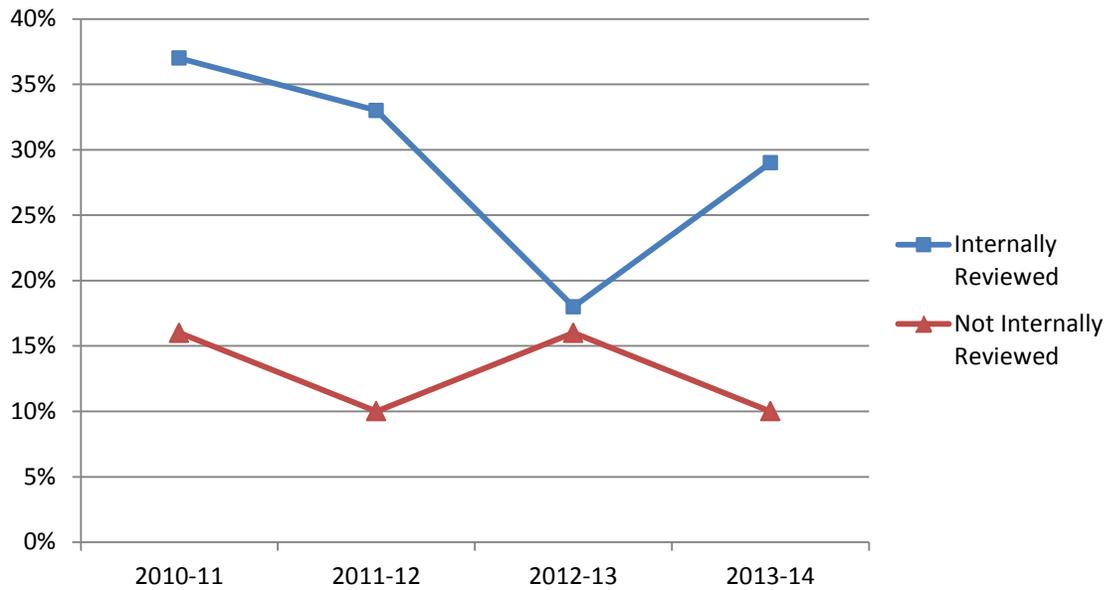
Source of Funding	Fiscal Year					
	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Non Tri-Agency	837	1036	1042	951	965	923
Tri-Agency	251	312	296	311	360	306
Total	1088	1348	1338	1262	1325	1229

Internal Review: CIHR Operating Grant Applications



Competition	Not reviewed			Reviewed		
	Successful	Total	Success Rate	Successful	Total	Success Rate
Sept. 2011	0	8	0%	5	19	26%
Mar. 2012	0	6	0%	7	16	44%
Sept. 2012	0	10	0%	5	15	33%
Mar. 2013	1	10	10%	7	17	41%
Sept. 2013	0	4	0%	4	16	25%
Total	1	38	2%	28	83	33%

Internal Review: SSHRC Insight Grant Success Rate



Competition	Internally Reviewed	Not Internally Reviewed
2010-11	37%	16%
2011-12	33%	10%
2012-13	18%	16%
2013-14	29%	10%

2014 Annual Report to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee of Council

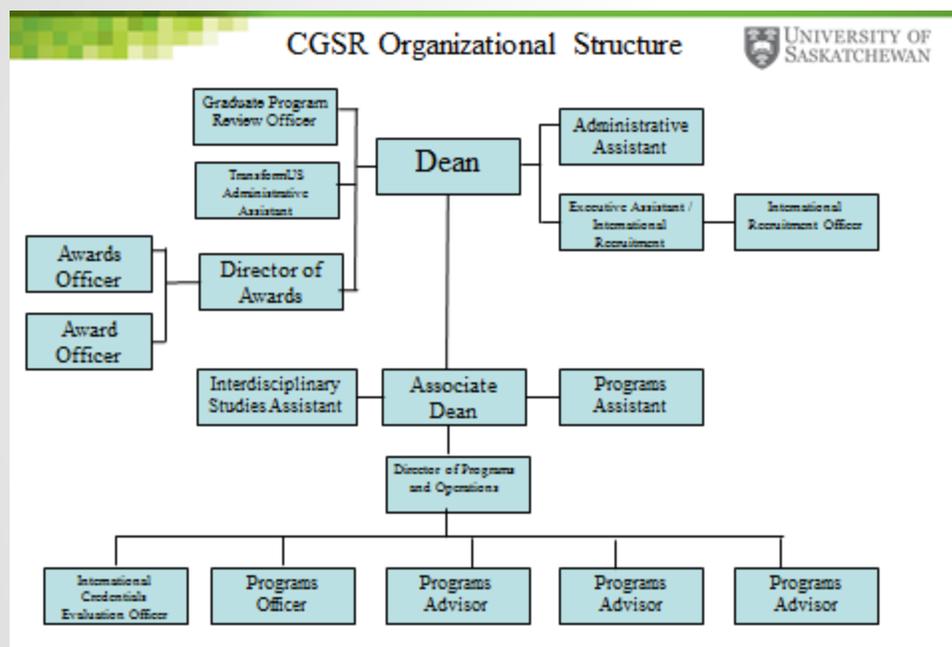
CGSR RSAW 2014 Report

During the 2013-2014 academic year (September 1st to August 31st) the four standing committees of the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) met on a regular basis to monitor, direct and facilitate College business. Copies of their respective reports are attached.

Staffing

The figure below displays the current organizational structure of CGSR. During the last 12 months, the following faculty and staff changes have occurred: (i) Acting Dean Dr Adam Baxter-Jones's appointment was

extended by 6 months from June 30th to December 31st 2014. (ii) Associate Dean Dr Trever Crowe's contract was also extended from June 30th to December 31st 2014. In 2013, Dr Alex Beldan resigned his position as Programs Assistant and was replaced by Ms. Cat Bonner. Mr. Nathan Risling was hired as the Graduate Programs Review Officer.



Program Advisor Ms. Darla Mitchell was seconded to the International Credentials Evaluation Officer's position for 4 months. Ms. Susan Prpich is currently providing cover for Ms. Mitchell during her leave of absence. Ms. Shauna Quintin returned from covering a maternity leave and replaced Ms. Prpich as a Program Advisor. Ms. Quintin subsequently resigned and has been replaced by Ms. Prpich. The outcome of these changes has resulted in a decrease in Program Advisors from three to two. In the award's office Ms. Corinne Anderson resigned resulting in a current reduction of two to one Awards Officer. Ms. Eleonore Danial-Vaugeosis, previously on a 6 months term position as an International Credentials Evaluation project manager, was retained as the TransformUS Administrative Assistant to the Dean on a term contract until Dec 31st 2014.

Student Numbers

As of fall census day October 10th 2013, graduate student numbers were up 3.2% on the previous year at 3,116. At winter term census day graduate student numbers were 1.3% higher than the previous year. International graduate student numbers have also risen and now make up 34% of the total graduate student numbers, one of the highest percentages in Canada.

International Recruitment

International student recruitment remains a top priority. Delegations have visited China, Ecuador, and Chile this year, with delegations from these countries also visiting this campus. Agreement discussions are progressing. This initiative is supported by funding of the Ambassador Program. The University has also joined CALDO, a consortium of Canada's leading research universities committed to international education, which develops strategic partnerships with foreign governments, sponsoring agencies and groups of universities in order to enable students and researchers from Latin America to gain privileged access to the wide range of programs and state-of-the-art research facilities of its member universities (<http://www.caldo.ca/>). To assist in the recruitment of high academic caliber international students with low English language proficiency, CGSR introduced this year a Graduate Pathways Certificate. This will open up the opportunity for students without the minimal English language proficiency to be given a provisional entry to an academic program contingent on reaching language proficiency at our English-language school. Whilst enrolled in the English language classes they will be registered as non-degree graduate students. CGSR have also tried to assist international, and domestic, recruitment through the creation of an Admissions and Credentials Evaluation Officer. In line with new federal and provincial laws this officer will ensure consistency in our practices of international credentials evaluation. In collaboration with SESD an up-to-date and appropriate centralized credentials evaluation methodology is now available for graduate students.

Visiting Scholars

In 2013 the number of visiting scholars increased by 62% to a record high of 117. Ninety three percent of visiting scholars were international.

College Membership

From 2012 to 2013 the number of newly appointed Adjunct Professors increased from 58 to 66 (99% were domestic appointments), whilst during the same period the number of newly appointed Professional Affiliates dropped from 31 to 18 (90% Canadian).

Scholarships and Awards

In 2013- 2014 the College of Graduate Studies and Research administered approximately \$8 million of centrally funded money for graduate student support.

The total funds available for Dean's Scholarships increased by just over 44%, to \$2.1 million. This resulted in an increase in the number of scholarships awarded from 46 in 2013 to 54 in 2014. These new funds were made available through a PCIP initiative resulting in an additional \$520,000 being added to the \$1 million annual commitment and increased funds made available for International Deans Scholarships through increases in revenue generated from the International Tuition Fee Differential.

Just over \$3.9 million was awarded in devolved and non-devolved funding; with unit allotments based on the previous year's allotment and a three year rolling average head count, ratio of PhD to Masters and years in program formula.

The 20 Teacher-Scholar Doctoral Fellowships were increased in value from \$18,000 per year to \$20,000 per year.

The number of Graduate Teaching Fellowships was increased this year from 47 to 54 due to surpluses in the funds due to scholarships not being up taken in the previous years.

The Graduate Research Fellowship funds remained the same and were awarded to 25 students.

In 2013 -2014 \$1,521,000 was awarded through the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship.

College Initiatives

One of the major focuses of the last 12 months has been to update and make more accessible CGSR's Policies and Procedures manual; an updated pdf version can be found here:

http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/for_fac_staff/Policy-and-Procedure-Manual.php

In addition, the Director of Programs and Operations has been working with colleagues in EMAP to produce an interactive online version that will be available in the summer of 2014.

With a new organizational structure in place and the recruitment of a Graduate Program Review Officer (Mr. Nathan Risling), the Graduate Program Reviews will be re initiated in the fall of 2014.

Finally, as indicated in the TransformUS Action Plan, the institution wishes to disestablish the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Under the University Act, it is the Board of Governors' responsibility to disestablish colleges on the authorization of Council. Decisions of Council to authorize the disestablishment of a college must go to Senate for confirmation. To achieve this goal Dr Adam Baxter-Jones and Dr Murray Fulton (Director, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, Professor, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and member of the Graduate Education Review Committee (GERC)) have been asked to be the project co-leads, on TransformUS Action Plan project #4.1: The development of a new model for oversight of graduate education. The brief for project #4.1 is to consider where future graduate programs administrative decisions will be made: (i) in a recommended Office of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Fellows, (ii) in amalgamated units of undergraduate and graduate shared services or (iii) colleges or schools. It is important to note that the brief of project #4.1 is not to decide how decisions will be made.

Due to recent developments with regards to senior leadership positions, the projected timelines are not known. However, what is required is a submitted notice of intent (NOI) of a concept paper (CP) to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council for them to take the CP to Council for approval. If approved, it will be submitted to Senate for their approval.

A working / advisory group has now been struck in consultation: Drs. Murray Fulton (co-chair and GERC member), Adam Baxter-Jones (co-

chair), Baljit Singh (Faculty), Peta Bonham-Smith (Faculty and GERC member), Greg Marion (Faculty and GERC member), Cathy Arnold (Faculty), Stephen Urquhart (Faculty), Pattie McDougall (Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning) and Ms Pauline Melis (Assistant Provost, Institutional Planning and Assessment), Ms Izabela Vlahu (President GSA), Mr Rahwa Osman (VP External Affairs GSA), and a Postdoctoral Fellow Rep (TBD). Support for this group is being provided by Dr. Trever Crowe and Ms. Eleonore Daniel-Vaugeois.

Ms. Daniel-Vaugeois is currently compiling a report for the working / advisory group to assist with their deliberations, which includes: (i) an external review of graduate administration in the U15 compiled from one-on-one interviews; (ii) an internal review of the faculty's issues with CGSR compiled from discussions at faculty meetings and an online survey; and (iii) flow diagrams outlining current graduate administration decision making.

With regards to Toxicology and Interdisciplinary graduate programs, these will be discussed as part of Action Plan projects 4.1, 10.1 and 10.2. It should be noted that project 4.1 is not responsible for the reorganization of staffing within any proposed new model; this is the responsibility of project TransformUS Action Plan #4.2 lead by the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, Dr Pattie McDougal.



College of Graduate Studies and Research
Report of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
May 2013 – April 2014

Committee members (for the period May 2013 – April 2014)

Dr. Avi Akkerman, Dr. Ravindra Chibbar, Dr. Maud Ferrari, Dr. Kent Kowalski, Dr. Veronika Makarova, Dr. Paul Orłowski, Dr. Louise Racine (Chair), Dr. Chanchal Roy, Dr. Kara Somerville, Dr. Lisa Vargo, Dr. Khan Wahid

GSA representative: Mostafa Aghbolaghy

CGSR members: Dr. Trevor Crowe, Associate Dean; Dr. Alex Beldan (recorder, May 2013 – February 2014), Cat Bonner (recorder, March 2014 -)

Nature of business conducted by the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee 2013-2014:

- New Graduate Course Proposals
- Graduate Course Modifications
- Graduate Course Deletions
- Special Case Admissions
- Alleged Academic Misconduct Hearings
- Student/Academic Unit Appeals

Please note: approvals during May-August 2013 (after publication of the 12-13 report to Graduate Faculty) are marked with *

New Graduate Courses

- PHSI 860.3 – Advanced Seminar in Neuroscience*
- LAW 805.3 – Advanced Criminal Law Studies*
- BPBE 825.3 – Research Issues in Agribusiness Management*
- ME 897.3 – Mechanics and Control of Robots*
- ECUR 815.3 – Decolonizing the Curriculum*

- MBA 830.3 – Operations Management*
- VBMS 880.3 – Experimental Design and Statistical Analysis for the Natural Sciences
- GSR 974.0 – Preparation for the Future: Graduate Professional Skills for the 21st Century
- ENG 803.3 - Topics in Literary and Cultural History
- MPAC 801.3 – Business Environment and Strategy
- NURS 990.0 – Seminar
- PUBH 812.3 – Emergency Management for Public Health
- PTH 832.3 – Musculoskeletal II
- PTH 834.4 – Musculoskeletal III
- PTH 838.5 – Musculoskeletal IV
- PHAR 865.3 – Analytical Mass Spectrometry
- VLAC 808.3 – Introduction to Veterinary Epidemiology
- PUBH 805.3 – Biostatistics for Public Health
- CHEP 814 – Food Systems and Community Health

Graduate Course Modifications

- ANTH 806.3 – Anthropological Environments (course title change)*
- MBA 865.3 – Accounting for Planning, Decision Making and Operations (course title and calendar description change)*
- NURS 816.3 – Community within the Context of Diversity and Vulnerability (pre-requisites change)*
- NURS 878.3 – Practicum III: Advanced Nursing Practice with Vulnerable Populations (pre-requisites change)
- NURS 885.3 – Nursing Therapeutics I Individual to Community (pre-requisites change)
- NURS 886.3 – Pathophysiology-Pharmacotherapy for Advanced Nursing Practice II (pre-requisites change)
- ENG 803.3 – Topics in Literary and Cultural History (exam exemption)
- APMC 830.3 – Advanced Environmental Microbiology (pre-requisites change)
- BIOL 812.3 – Advanced Limnology (pre-requisites change)
- BIOL 827.3 – Multivariate Analysis in Ecology (title and pre-requisite change)
- WRIT 803.3 – Extended Forms: Capstone workshop (course title, content and calendar description change)
- WRIT 800.3 – The Craft of Writing Fiction (course title and calendar description change)
- PTH 832.3 – Musculoskeletal II (course content change)
- PTH 834.4 – Musculoskeletal III (course content change)
- PTH 838.5 – Musculoskeletal IV (course content change)
- PUBH 846.3 – Analytic Methods In Epidemiological Research (pre-requisites change)
- EADM 826 – Human Resources Leadership in Education (course title change)

- PUBH 992.6 – Public Health Practicum (course hours change and addition of pre-requisites)

Graduate Course Deletions

- ACB 833.3 – Platelets in Human Health and Disease
- ACB 832.3 – Thrombosis and Haemostasis

Special Case Admissions

Admittance to Ph.D. program in Native Studies

Admittance to Ph.D. program in Educational Technology and Design

Admittance to Ph.D. program in Curriculum Studies

Admittance to Ph. D. program in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Admittance to M.A. program in Linguistics

Admittance to Ph.D. program in Curriculum Studies

Alleged Academic Misconduct

The Committee formed two subcommittees to hear cases of alleged academic misconduct between May 2013 and April 2014.

Student/ Academic Unit Appeals

Student, request to write supplemental exam for course EE 840 (denied).

College of Graduate Studies and Research
Report of the Graduate Programs Committee
May 2013 – April 2014

Committee members

Dr. Ron Cooley, Dr. Ralph Deters (Chair), Dr. David DiZhang, Dr. Donna Goodridge, Dr. Tasha Epp, Dr. Dwight Makaroff, Dr. Laureen McIntyre (Chair to June 2013), Dr. Jafar Mohammadzadeh, Dr. Dionne Pohler, Dr. Debbie Pushor, Dr. Leon Wegner, Dr. Susan Whiting (Dr. Mary Ellen Andrews July – Dec 2013)

GSA representative: Dylan Beach, Qin Xiang

CGSR members: Dr. Trever Crowe, Associate Dean; Dr. Alex Beldan (recorder, May 2013 – February 2014), Cat Bonner (recorder, March 2014 -)

Nature of business conducted by the Graduate Programs Committee 2013-2014:

- New Degree Level Programs
- New Graduate Programs and Certificates
- Program Modifications
- Proposal to transfer departmental administrative responsibility for program
- Review of Guidelines on Manuscript-Style Thesis document

Please note: approvals during May-August 2013 (after publication of the 12-13 report to Graduate Faculty) are marked with *

New Degree Level Programs

- M.A. in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies*

New Graduate Programs and Certificates

- Graduate Pathways Certificate

Program Modifications

- Master of Business Administration*
 - Change in course number from 880.0 to 883.3 (MBA International Tour)
 - Increase in credit unit count from 0 to 3 for the same course
 - Deletion of MBA 881.3 - Mergers, Acquisitions and Negotiating for Business
 - Changes to required courses (883.3 and 830.3 added)
- Ph.D. in Physics and Engineering Physics
 - Change in required classes from Phys 812 and Phys 883 or Phys 811, to Phys 812 or Phys 873 or Phys 886
- M.Sc. in Physics and Engineering Physics
 - Removal of required classes Phys 812, Phys 883, Phys 811
- M.A. in Religion and Culture
 - Include special topics courses RLST 898 and RLST 899 to be included in the list of restricted electives.
- Master of Environment and Sustainability, Master of Sustainable Environmental Management
 - New graduate courses - ENVS 806.3 – Field Skills in Environment and Sustainability, ENVS 807.3 – Sustainability in Theory and Practice and ENVS 808.3 – Tools and Applications for Sustainability Problem-Solving
 - Modification of ENVS 804.3 – Advanced Problem-Solving for Environment and Sustainability (change to course title and calendar description)
 - Deletion of ENVS 802.3 – Human Dimensions of Environment and Sustainability
 - Change to required courses from ENVS 801.3 or ENVS 802.3, ENVS 804.3 and ENVS 805.3 (9 credit units) to ENVS 806.3, ENVS 807.3, ENVS 808.3 and ENVS 805.3 (12 credit units)
- Ph.D. program in SENS
 - New graduate course: ENVS 809.3 – Ph.D. Seminar in Environment and Sustainability
 - Change to required courses from ENVS 801.3 or 802.3 to 809.3
- M.A. and Transfer to PhD Programs in the Department of Psychology
 - Change to required courses – remove 802.3
- MPAcc program
 - Change total credit unit count in program from 37 to 42
 - New graduate courses: 816.4 – Taxation 1, MPAC 824.3 – Finance 2
 - Course modifications – change to title and number for the following courses (additional changes in brackets)
 - MPAC 811.4 – Performance Management 1
 - MPAC 814.4 – Finance 1 (calendar description, increase credit unit count),
 - MPAC 813.4 – Financial Reporting 1 (calendar description)
 - MPAC 815.4 – Assurance 1 (increase credit unit count)

MAPC 821.3 – Performance Management 2 (pre-requisite – MPAC 811, calendar description)

MPAC 823.3 – Financial Reporting 2 (pre-requisite – MPAC 813, calendar description)

MAPC 825.3 – Assurance 2 (pre-requisite – MPAC 815.4, calendar description, decrease credit unit count)

MPAC 826.3 – Taxation 2 (pre-requisite – MPAC 816.4, decrease credit unit count)

MPAC 890.4 – Integrative Capstone (calendar description, increase in credit unit count)

- Deletion of MPAC 810.3 – Professional Skills Application and Integration
- MFA in Studio Arts
 - Clarification and approval of program’s required courses
- PTH 841.2 – Foundations IV Electrophysical Agents (modification to calendar description)
- MPH (add GSR 961: Ethics and Integrity in Human Research as a required course)

Proposal to transfer departmental administrative responsibility for program

The Graduate Programs Committee approved a proposal to transfer administrative responsibility for the graduate programs in Environmental Engineering to the department of Chemical and Biological Engineering. *

Review of Guidelines on Manuscript-Style Thesis document

In November 2013, the committee developed the “Guidelines on Manuscript-Style Thesis” document, and recommended that the document progress to the Graduate Executive Committee and Graduate Faculty for further approval. The document was ultimately tabled at the February 2014 Graduate Faculty meeting, to provide an opportunity for faculty to give further input into the document. CGSR elicited feedback from faculty in academic units across campus during March 2014. This feedback was brought back to the Programs Committee, along with the guidelines document, for further review and suggestions on how to move the document forward. The document was reviewed and edited, and the committee supported submission of the revised version to the Graduate Executive Committee for further approval.

College of Graduate Studies and Research Awards Committee Report, 2013-2014

Lynn P. Weber
May 1st, 2014

1. Membership

- Lynn Weber, Dept. of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences (Chair)
- Chijin Xiao, Physics & Engineering Physics
- Sonia Udod, College of Nursing
- Laureen McIntyre, Dept. of Educational Psychology & Special Education
- Jack Gray, Dept. of Biology
- Allison Muri, Dept. of English
- Andrew Grosvenor, Dept. of Chemistry
- Other individuals who helped for particular competitions (see below)

2. Awards Staff

- Heather Lukey, Director of Graduate Awards and Scholarships
- Peggy Naughton, Awards Officer

3. Activities

3.1 Introduction

The awards committee adjudicated a number of applications for scholarship and thesis award competitions, both internally and externally funded. The major competitions adjudicated by the committee were the Vanier scholarship, NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship, SSHRC Scholarships, CIHR scholarship, the NSERC Undergraduate summer research awards and the University Graduate Scholarship competitions. The Governor General's Gold Medal recipients and thesis awards have not been recommended at the time of writing this report.

The following is a summary of the committee's major activities through the 2013-2014 academic year.

3.2 Vanier-graduate scholarships (Oct 28, 2013)

Full committee – L.Weber (Chair), C. Xiao, A. Muri, L. McIntyre, J. Doering (Graduate student representative); Regrets – A. Grosvenor, S. Udod, J. Gray.

The number of Vanier scholarship applications reviewed at this university was 14. The University quota for forwarding nominations of these awards is allocated over a 3 year period, meaning that the number of candidates forwarded by the University in any given year varies up to that total over the 3 year cycle. We were in the last year of a 3-yr quota; CIHR had a

remaining quota of 6, NSERC a quota of 11 and SSHRC a quota of 7 candidates. The committee ranks candidates based on academics (33%) and research potential (33%), but with an additional category of leadership (33%) not found in most other scholarship competitions. Winners of this highly prestigious scholarship are the 'best of the best in all of Canada'. Therefore, in order to be nominated from this university for further consideration, the applicant and their application must be of the highest standards. Based on applications meeting sufficient quality to be competitive at the national level and numbers of applications, the CGSR awards committee nominated for further consideration by the national committee all 3 applications received in the CIHR pool, 3 applications in the NSERC pool and 3 for the SSHRC pool. The applications from the SSHRC pool were particularly poor overall or incomplete. Therefore, quotas were not filled in all cases because insufficient applications of excellent calibre were obtained. This year was a banner year for this university's Vanier competition, with 4 Vaniers awarded (2 in NSERC, 1 in SSHRC and 1 in CIHR).

3.3 NSERC Post-graduate scholarships - PGS D, and (Nov 12, 2013)

Sub-committee – L.Weber (Chair), C. Xiao, A. Grosvenor, J. Doering (Graduate student representative); Regrets – J. Gray.

This year the NSERC PGS competition was very different, since only the Doctoral applications were considered at this meeting, with all MSc applications considered later with the harmonized competition in Dec 2013. Previous year's quota for nominating PGS applications included both Doctoral and MSc, but are now separated and the University quota for this national competition was 28 applications at the Doctoral level. The total number of applications received was 31 and these were evaluated using NSERC's evaluation criteria. A composite committee ranking was established and the top ranked 28 applications were judged to be of sufficient quality to be considered federally and were forwarded to NSERC. In addition, 2 applications were forwarded in the aboriginal pool, which NSERC does not include in the regular quota and considers separately. Of these, 8 were awarded scholarships (6 CGS-D, 2 PGS-D and 2 others on the alternate list for PGS-Ds).

3.4 SSHRC Doctoral (Dec 9, 2013)

Sub-committee – L.Weber (Chair), A. Muri, L. Martens (Graduate student representative); Regrets - L. McIntyre

The University quota for nominations to be considered at the federal level for the SSHRC doctoral competition was increased to 16 candidates. The committee received 27 applications to consider. Of those 16 candidates forwarded to the national level for consideration for SSHRC doctoral awards, 9 were awarded scholarships (1 CGS-D and 8 PGS-D).

3.5 NSERC, CIHR & SSHRC Harmonized Master's Competition (Mar 4, 5 & 10, 2014)

NSERC Sub-committee – L.Weber (Chair), C. Xiao, A. Grosvenor, J. Gray, L. Kalynchuk, J. Doering (Graduate student representative)

CIHR Sub-committee – L. Weber (Chair), D. Mousseau, D. Bickford (Graduate student representative); Regrets – S. Udod

SSHRC Sub-committee – L. Weber (Chair), L. McIntyre, A. Muri, L. Martens (Graduate student representative)

New this year was the harmonization of the PGS-M applications among the tri-agencies, with a common application used and deadline for all on Dec 1, 2013. Also new this year, the university was allocated a fixed number of PGS-M scholarships for each tri-agency to be awarded based solely on the ranking of the CGSR awards committee (i.e. no consideration at the federal level). Each university was able to set their own guidelines for determining awards. The applications received were ranked in full accordance with each tri-agency's guidelines. This university was allocated 13 PGS-M for the NSERC pool, 5 for the CIHR pool and 17 for the SSHRC pool based on an average of several previous years' numbers of awardees. Another major change in the application procedure was that applicants could list up to 5 different universities where they would like to take up the award, but each university did not know how many other universities or where each applicant had applied in addition to the University of Saskatchewan. As a result, the numbers of applications for each of these three PGS-M pools was drastically increased and it was not always clear whether every applicant knew anything about this university before they chose to apply in our pool. The number of complete PGS-M applications that were considered was 62 for NSERC, 16 for CIHR and 62 for SSHRC. Offers of award were sent out April 1, 2014 from all universities, but applicants had up to 21 days to accept an award from a given university. Once an offer was rejected, the awards office then moved down the reserve list to make any remaining offers. As of writing of this report, a few offers are still pending in all three tri-agencies.

3.6 NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA, Feb 3, 2014)

Sub-committee – L.Weber (Chair), J. Gray, A. Grosvenor, C. Xiao

The quota for USRA awards at this university was up slightly over previous years at 65 awards. The declining trend in numbers of USRA applications held again this year (down to 71 applications this year from 75 and 90 the last two years). These applications were ranked based on academic standing, research potential and the proposed project. After ranking the top 65 individuals to be offered this award, the committee also approved the remaining applicants as a reserve list in case any awards cannot be accepted.

3.7 University Graduate Scholarships (UGS), Non-devolved & Equity (March 17, 2014)

Full committee – L.Weber (Chair), J. Gray, A. Grosvenor, A. Muri, C. Xiao, L. McIntyre, M. Rafati (Graduate student representative).

There were 26 applications received for the non-devolved scholarship competition. After ranking, the committee awarded 8 scholarships (3 Master's and 5 doctoral). Departmental rankings were considered along with academic standing and reference letters as part of the scoring. In response to the previous CGSR awards committee's recommendations, the Equity Scholarship was not offered this year and instead will be replaced with an Equity Bursary. Terms of reference are in the drafting stage for this Equity Bursary. The rationale behind this change was that in previous years, the scholarship component prevented true equity from being achieved.

3.8 Dean's Scholarship (Dec 2013 & Feb 27, 2014)

Full committee – L.Weber (Chair), A. Grosvenor, A. Muri, C. Xiao; Regrets - J. Gray, L. McIntyre, S. Udod

In response to concerns raised in last year's Graduate Council meetings and on the recommendation of last year's CGSR awards committee, the Dean's scholarships were considered by the full CGSR awards committee this year. In order to accommodate this, monthly competitions could not be held and instead only 2 competitions in Dec and Feb were held. Departmental rankings, publications/presentations as well as academic standing were taken into consideration when forming the composite rankings. Of the \$2,050,000 to be awarded in the Dean's scholarship competitions, 25% was awarded in the Dec competition and 75% in the Feb competition. The domestic and international applicants were considered in separate pools, with 2/3 of the money awarded to domestic applicants and 1/3 to international applicants.

In total, between both rounds, over 125 candidates were considered for these awards. As in the past, final award counts for the Dean's scholarship are not finalized until all scholarships offered are officially taken up by students and all students have heard results from tri-council competitions where applicable.

4 Conclusions

The future status of the CGSR awards committee is uncertain in view of the upcoming revisions to the college structure. Although many of the functions of CGSR will likely become decentralized, there is an absolute need for a centralized committee comprised of experienced researchers/academics in each of the tri-agency areas to continue. An awards committee independent of departments and colleges is needed to ensure compliance with agency rules and equitable access to awards across the campus.

The Awards Committee academic members are to be credited for their extensive time commitment to this process. With the changes to the tri-agency PGS-M competitions, this year was particularly onerous. Each hour of meeting time translates roughly into 10 hours or more of time spent prior to the meeting developing the rankings. I would particularly like to thank the Graduate student representatives for their dedication and always finding time to complete this task.

The committee would also like to thank the CGSR awards support staff (Peggy Naughton) that takes the large volume of information handed to them, compiles it and disseminates it to the committee in a usable format. I would especially like to thank Heather Lukey who has served as a representative in Ottawa during tri-agency awards revisions, increasing our knowledge of the tri-agency competitions. She is an invaluable resource that has continued to advocate for students and navigate our university's awards office through this period of significant change, both internally and externally, to seeing some of our best successes in tri-council competitions.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES PROGRAM
ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT
April 2014**

1. THE INDIVIDUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE PROGRAM

The College of Graduate Studies and Research offers the individual Interdisciplinary Graduate Program for M.A. M.Sc. and Ph.D. candidates whose research falls outside traditional academic boundaries. Interdisciplinary Studies is a problem-based approach where knowledge and methods from several disciplines are brought together either to solve a complex problem or address an object of study. The problem is defined externally to the disciplines involved; it is not a simple intellectual construct or abstraction. Such an approach is distinct from disciplinary research, in which problems are conceived within the knowledge and methods of the discipline. To be truly interdisciplinary, the research program must integrate at least two or more different disciplinary perspectives and methodologies that are usually considered distinct.

The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee administers the Individual Interdisciplinary Graduate Program and maintains a website (http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/grad_programs/programs/INTERD.php) that contains details on the application, procedure, scholarships, and the Interdisciplinary seminars. This website continues to be updated to serve as the key source of information for both prospective and current students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Studies program.

The Interdisciplinary Graduate Program interacts closely with graduate programs from other departments and colleges to ensure the necessary flexibility required for students to complete an interdisciplinary program yet enjoy affiliation with an established academic unit. Such relations have enhanced the stability of the Individual Interdisciplinary Graduate Program but in no way has impinged upon or competed with these traditional programs.

As knowledge in a wide range of disciplines has advanced, scholars at the University of Saskatchewan have become increasingly aware of the need to link disciplinary fields to more fully answer critical questions, or to facilitate application of knowledge in a specific area. For students, the advantage of the Interdisciplinary program is that it is “a design your own major.” An interdisciplinary major gives students the freedom to design an academic program that either serves their particular interests or allows them to prepare for a specific career requiring a broad range of knowledge. Candidates interested in the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies are responsible for developing the program proposal with assistance from the supervisor, which must be approved by the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee. To be considered “interdisciplinary,” the proposed program must integrate course work and research into a concise program that is not available within the traditional academic setting.

2. INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE COURSES

INTD 898.3/899.6 -Special Topics. Topics are selected according to the student’s area of interest.

INTD 990-Seminar. Students are required to attend and to present one seminar in the course of study for Masters and two for Doctoral students.

INTD 994 Students writing a Master’s thesis must register in this course.

INTD 996 Students writing a Doctoral dissertation must register in this course.

All students also take interest area specific graduate courses.

Additionally, all students must take the required ethics GSR courses applicable to their program.

GSR 960.0 is a requirement for all students.

GSR 961.0 if research involves human subjects.

GSR 962.0 if research involves animal subjects.

3. THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The elected membership to the Committee, their affiliation with departments and interdisciplinary area.

The members for 2013-2014:

Paul Hackett, (Graduate Chair), Geography & Planning: Medical Geography

J. Moffatt, Engineering, Graham Centre for the Study of Communication

K. Belcher, *Agriculture & Bioresources: Bioresources Policy*

Joyce Davison, College of Nursing

Fangxiang Wu, Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering

S. Kirychuk, Medicine: Canadian Centre for Health & Safety in Agriculture

Qin Xiang, GSA Representative

T. Crowe, Associate Dean, CGSR

A. Baxter-Jones, Acting Dean, CGSR

We anticipate considerable turnover for the coming year due to sabbatical leave and the end of several members' terms. This may prove a challenge to operations of the program over this period.

4. STUDENTS AND GRADUATING CLASSES

At present there are 29 students registered in Interdisciplinary Studies Programs of which there are students in the Masters of Arts program, the Masters of Science Program while many of the students are in PhD programs. Recently, the Interdisciplinary Studies Program has been active with the China Scholarship Council (CSC) with the admission of 2 students. The objective of the CSC is to provide financial assistance to Chinese citizens wishing to study abroad. Admissions for 3 PhD students were approved and the students began their programs in September 2014 and January 2014.

The program had two students convocate in spring 2013 and three students convocate in fall 2013.

5. INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINARS

One of the areas of innovation has been the interdisciplinary 990 Seminar, held on a monthly basis, where numbers warrant. The seminars aim at building a community of interdisciplinary scholars and are sometimes followed by a social event. This year, there were four seminars and four presentations. Interdisciplinary student attendance and participation are required for a predetermined number of seminars over the course of the academic year and attendance is monitored. Students present their on-going work to their peers in addition to participating faculty members during their time in program with written detailed audience feedback.

A second component to the seminar requirement is regular attendance at one or more campus seminars in the area or areas of relevance for the students program or research. As we are dealing with increasing numbers of external students we have been testing the use of Skype to have out-of-city students participate.

The committee addressed the mixed interests of students from a vast range of topics and research methodologies by adopting participatory strategies that create a more coherent dialogical seminar that garners more interaction between students and faculty. One way to create a more dialogical group of scholars was to change the presentation format. Requiring the student's supervisor to lead with introductions to the area of research and a committee member to be the respondent to the presentation has led to a more dynamic participation that extended to the personal interactions and follow-up discussions. The graduate student presentation changed in fall 2013. The seminar entailed an elaboration on the process of research and less on the product. Students presented a brief overview of the research focus and question, the research methodology, and the interdisciplinary nature of their work followed by a discussion of how the interdisciplinary study integrates a range of perspectives, theories, and ensuing methodologies. This sharpened focus provided a more comprehensive understanding of the issues, complexities, and challenges pertinent to conducting interdisciplinary research and hopefully captured the interest of most students.

6. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

There are 35 faculty members involved with the supervision or co-supervision and many more involved in the Student Advisory Committees (SAC) of the interdisciplinary students. Between 2006 and 2013, there was a network of 198 faculty scholars in diverse disciplines serving on the Student Advisory Committees from 11 colleges which accommodate 59 academic departments, 3 schools and 2 research centres.

Implemented in 2012 was an Annual Standard Student Progress Report that outlines the responsibilities of the student, supervisor, and Student Advisory Committee. It monitors annual SAC meetings, courses completed, timing of the comprehensive exams, years in program and deadlines for gathering of data, the writing of the thesis or dissertation, and defense date. Additionally, the report lists student activity such as the seminars attended, scholarships and sources of funding, presentations and conferences, publications and awards which are reported digitally.

The Interdisciplinary committee has circulated to students, supervisors, and committee members a document on comprehensive exams as there is a wide variety of procedures, wider when scholars from different disciplines serve on the student advisory committees. The document lists some alternative procedures and appears on the InterD website and has been adopted by other departments on campus as a model.

7. STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Sources of student scholarship remain a challenge for students in the InterD program. Some have access to a number of opportunities for internal and external funding. Some receive funding through their supervisor, grants, or teaching fellowships. Others have received the Interdisciplinary Scholarship and Graduate Teaching Fellowship provided through the funds provided to Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Tri-Council funding is subject specific within a wide array of disciplines such as English, Sociology, Education or History. Therefore, Interdisciplinary students find it difficult to compete when their research program crosses a number of disciplines.

8. CONCENTRATION AREAS

By nature, interdisciplinary studies are highly individualistic and the majority of students follow personal or individual programs of study. Some students enter the program with the specific aim of training in

research focused around a general topic or concentration area or a group of faculty that interact quite closely. Presently, with the introduction of the schools in Public Policy, Environment & Sustainability and Public Health, there is only one concentration area as in the Centre for the Study of Cooperatives. The Interdisciplinary Committee is interested in the identification and pursuit of new concentration areas.

10. STUDENT ENVIRONMENT

The most prevailing concern raised by students in the Individualized Interdisciplinary program is their feeling of isolation and lack of collegiality. Unlike departments, the students are scattered across campus as Interdisciplinary Studies does not have a “common space” on the university campus for either the students or our admin, Alison Kraft. This tends to detract from our attempts to create a presence for the program.

In an attempt to foster group identity and collegiality among the students, we have hosted a new Student Orientation, a Fall Social, and a Winter Gathering. Further, the Chair on behalf of the committee sends a letter of congratulations to a student who receives a scholarship, completes the comprehensive exams, or successfully defends a thesis or dissertation and a letter to the student and family on the occasion of convocation.

Periodic gatherings for students are planned for the academic year and a new website has been created that showcases students and their research.