

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY and ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE**

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

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**PRESENTED BY:** Caroline Tait; Chair, Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 18, 2015

**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 2014/2015**

### Council Members

Rainer Dick	Physics & Engineering Physics
Paul Jones	School of Environment and Sustainability
Yu Luo	Biochemistry
Jaswant Singh	Veterinary Biomedical Sciences
Laurie Hellsten	Associate Dean, Graduate Studies; College of Education

### General Academic Assembly Members

Pamela Downe	Archaeology and Anthropology
Tim Nowlin	Art and Art History
<b>Caroline Tait (Chair)</b>	Psychiatry
Keith Willoughby	Edwards School of Business

### Student Members

Desiree Steele	VP Academic Affairs, USSU
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
Amanda Storey	Committee Coordinator, Office of the University Secretary

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee Annual Report for 2014-15
2. Annual Report of the Vice-President Research for 2014-15
3. Annual Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research for 2014-15

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

The Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee (RSAW) had a full and busy year, hosting a number of guest presenters who covered a broad spectrum of topics related to the Committee's mandate. Sixteen regular committee meetings were held and the following report covers the committee's activities from September 2014 to June 2015.

Each year the RSAW Committee selects a topic area that is examined in greater detail and a report on the subject is presented to University Council in June. RSAW chose this academic year to focus on "artistic work" and the humanities generally at the University of Saskatchewan, with particular attention paid to providing a set of guiding questions to further discussion across campus about the value and place of "artistic work" and the humanities generally, in contributing to the University's teaching, research and community engagement mandate. Artistic work, the humanities and their place and value at the U of S became the focus of our meetings for much of the year. A diverse group of guests were invited to present to RSAW on the topic and internal discussions within the Committee were held, all of which contributed to the final report (please see the report "Report on Artistic Work" for further detail).

The RSAW committee appointed Dr. Rainer Dick, a RSAW Committee member to sit on the International Activities Committee's Subcommittee on Metrics, which is seeking to standardize metrics used across the U of S that relate to internationalization. The subcommittee met five times during the second half of the year. It is currently working on a proposal for standardized metrics as well as coordinating with efforts in OVPR. Dr. Dick was also appointed to serve on the Task Force for University Rankings, which is developing recommendations to improve our position in national and international university rankings.

The RSAW committee received an informative presentation on research quality and impact metrics from one of our members, Dr. Keith Willoughby. In discussing the work being done at the Edwards School of Business towards accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), Dr. Willoughby highlighted the effort being done to show the impact and value of research done by ESB faculty. While quantity is relatively easy to measure, impact and quality are significantly more difficult. To assess this they looked at where research was being published, denoting papers published in top-tier journals (as classified by the Association of Business Schools) as being of higher quality. Dr. Willoughby discussed how impact is measured over time and extends beyond publication in journals, but includes work done for government publications, textbook authorship, and industry. To help the college understand the impact of their work, faculty members were invited to submit a short vignette explaining how their research has been put into use and how that demonstrates their impact. These vignettes were the most rewarding part of the accreditation process, as it allowed faculty to tell their stories about their own research.

The RSAW committee is responsible to approve the terms of reference for the [Distinguished Researcher and New Researcher Award](#) terms of reference. Previously, the RSAW 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 committee. This year, Dr. Sheila Schmutz of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science agreed to serve as the committee designate on these award committees.

The RSAW Committee has had an ongoing concern about emerging challenges facing faculty as they seek ways to support their research. With national and provincial funding bodies, most

specifically CIHR, SSHRC, and NSERC, moving towards funding large scale, multi-university, interdisciplinary research teams, there are fewer opportunities for UofS faculty to act as nominated principle investigators. To better understand and discuss some of the challenges around interdisciplinary research, in the second half of the year the committee began inviting the research leads from signature area research institutes. Scheduling became a challenge because of the busy schedules of the research leads and only one Institute was able to attend a RSAW meeting. The Global Institute for Water Security presented to the Committee on April 2, discussing the innovations and challenges of developing an interdisciplinary centre of excellence. The committee will continue this work next year, with a report on the shifting landscape of research being produced for Council's review by December 2015.

The RSAW committee also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the UofS being a member of the U15. Our position amongst other U15 institutions is held up as both a mark of success (as we are being measured against the strongest research-intensive institutions in the country) and as a potential area of concern (as we often rank quite low against our peers). The Committee discussed how the U of S's portfolio is unique amongst other U15 members, with all health sciences represented on a single campus.

The RSAW committee received a presentation from Corporate Administration on the update to the Vision 2057 land use plan. Judy Yungwirth and James Cook explained that the plan now includes discussion of the university's off-campus land holding to ensure sustainable and acceptable lands for agricultural research and teaching uses. The presentation of the preliminary plans fostered good discussion by committee members and the proponents. Committee members expressed universal concern about the lack of information on the cost or the financial impact of the proposed changes to the university's rural land holdings demonstrated in the presentation.

The RSAW committee discussed a number of annual standing items, including the annual reports from the Research Ethics Boards, the College of Graduate Studies, and Research and the Office of the Vice-President Research, which are included with this report. John Cornwell attended to provide the Tri-Agency Financial Monitoring Review Report to committee members for their information and review. The committee also received updates regarding the status of the U of S's SPOR application, met with tri-agency leaders, and from the Vice-President Research on the completion of her first term after renewal of her appointment.

In addition to receiving annual reporting from the Research Ethics Boards as part of the annual report from the Office of the Vice-President Research, the RSAW committee was also fortunate to hear from the chairs of the ethics boards about the nature of their work and the challenges they face in enforcing tri-agency funding regulations. Workload of ethics board members and their mandate was a topic of discussion that the RSAW intends to address in 2015/16. The reporting in the annual report of the Vice-President, Research (attached) along with the information provided by the chairs of the research ethics boards at the May 14, 2015 meeting of the RSAW committee meets the reporting requirement as outlined in the tri-agency agreements for submission of a report to the university's academic governance body.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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It has been my pleasure over the past year to work with colleagues, researchers, external stakeholders and partners as we continue to advance the University of Saskatchewan's discovery mission. This year marked the completion of my first term as Vice-President Research and I am greatly honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve for another five years. Over the past year we have continued to develop areas which have been the hallmark of my tenure thus far. We are strengthening our position as leaders in our areas of research strength and emerging strength, and fostering an environment which supports faculty, staff and students in achieving research success.

It is my pleasure to provide the following overview of the key accomplishments and activities of the Office of the Vice-President Research for the period May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND PORTFOLIOS**

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#### ***Seizing New Opportunities: Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)***

- Launched in December 2014, the federal Canada First Research Excellence Fund is intended to act as a springboard for Canada to achieve international excellence and leadership in areas aligned with the national S&T strategic areas.
- For the first competition, the U of S took a targeted approach to identifying innovation ready projects. In March, the U of S submitted a proposal entitled "Designing Crops for Global Food Security." Results are anticipated in July.
- An open consultative process was launched to identify the research areas to be submitted as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> competition, due October 2015.

#### ***Successful Proposal: Canada Excellence Research Chair***

- The U of S was successful in being awarded a Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Food Systems and Security.
- A rigorous candidate search was launched in the fall of 2014 in preparation for the international review of the candidate, with submission in September, 2015.

#### ***Showcasing Research: Images of Research Competition***

- In February 2014, the OVPR launched a photography and imaging competition entitled Images of Research with the purpose of inviting researchers to share their work in an innovative way with each other and the world. The competition asked U of S students, staff, faculty, and alumni to submit images and short written descriptions to share what research looks like in their discipline.
- 87 submissions were received from faculty, staff, alumni, and all levels of students from 10 different colleges and schools.
- During the competition's 12-day voting period, more than 3000 different visitors from more than 40 countries viewed the gallery page.
- Following deliberation by multiple interdisciplinary judging panels, 11 winning entries were announced, attracting significant national media attention.

### ***Supporting Patient-Oriented Research: SCPOR SUPPORT Unit***

- Province-wide units to support health research aimed at enhancing the lives of people and patients are being developed across Canada to build capacity for patient-oriented research.
- The Office of Associate VP Research – Health is finalizing the business plan for the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR) with widespread collaboration from Saskatchewan Ministries, Health Regions, U of S, U of Regina, research organizations, patients, and more.
- Once approved by the stakeholders, the finalized business plan will be submitted to the CIHR International Review Panel at the end of June, 2015. The plan outlines a Saskatchewan vision for a respectful and impactful way of working together to build capacity and engage collaborative teams to conduct responsive, equitable, innovative, patient-oriented research that continuously improves the care and health of Saskatchewan people.

### ***Initial Launch of UnivRS***

- The University Research System (UnivRS) is a single web-based system that provides researchers a secure space to collaborate on research projects as well as being the central repository to manage all project funding and compliance activities.
- The project is being released in stages over a five year period:
  - In September 2014, Stage 1, including pre-and post-award management, was launched for use within Research Services to enable refinements prior to the release to campus.
  - Release to the campus community will be phased-in beginning in fall 2015. UnivRS will be available for use by all researchers while the colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Pharmacy and Nutrition, and Veterinary Medicine will be completely adopting UnivRS.

### ***Policy Development***

- The “Institutional Costs of Research” policy was approved by the Board of Governors and implemented on May 1, 2014. As of May 1, 2015, 100% of the Institutional Costs of Research funds will be allocated to the college/school. The allocation in this new policy has replaced the 50/50 central/college sharing stipulated in the former “Administration of Research Overhead” policy. The revised policy is available at: <http://policies.usask.ca/policies/research-and-scholarly-activities/institutional-costs-of-research.php>.
- The “Research Administration” policy and the “Eligibility to Apply for, Hold, and Administer Research Funding” policy were approved by the Board of Governors on December 16, 2014 and implemented on January 1, 2015. Both policies are available under Research and Scholarly Activities at <http://policies.usask.ca/index.php>.
  - The Research Administration policy was created to consolidate the former policies “Administration of Research Funds” and “Administration of Grants and Contracts” which were both date back to 2002. The revised policy provides necessary updates to meet both Tri-Agency and U of S requirements.
  - The Eligibility policy was created to anticipate increased accountability regarding eligibility from the Tri-Agencies, and bring U of S policies in line with the majority of U15 peers.

### ***Enhancing Service: OVPR Reorganization***

- In November 2014, the Office of the Vice-President Research was restructured as a part of continued efforts to provide improved service delivery to faculty, staff, and students. The following changes were implemented:

- Research Services and Research Ethics were amalgamated to create the Research Services and Ethics Office (RSEO). This change unified all the OVPR's core research administration operations and compliance functions, including grants, contracts, and ethics.
- The OVPR's international research functions were amalgamated with its international protocol functions in a revised International Office. This change was made to help increase the profile of international relations and research at the university, as well as improve the coordination of our international activities.
- Strategic Research Initiatives was created by bringing together three different clusters from across the OVPR. The SRI unit was created to lead institutional research initiatives and provide improved support to researchers in the development of large-scale collaborative grants and initiatives. The unit also brings together the coordination of research facilitation across all academic units, awards facilitation and undergraduate research.

### ***Supporting Funding Success: Tri-Agency Leaders and Internal Review***

- The OVPR's Tri-Agency Leaders are highly respected faculty who are seconded to support the success of their colleagues in securing Tri-Agency support. In 2014-15 the Tri-Agency Leaders were:
  - CIHR: Deborah Anderson (Department of Oncology and Saskatoon Cancer Agency).
  - SSHRC: Bram Noble (Geography and Planning).
  - NSERC: Tom Steele (Physics and Engineering Physics).
  - Work is underway in finalizing the Tri-Agency Leaders for 2015-16.
- Highlights from Tri-Agency Leaders:
  - High satisfaction with NSERC review: 97% of applicants responded that internal review strengthened their proposal, with 37% in the "considerably strengthened" category.
  - High adoption of CIHR Open Operating internal review: 21 out of 25 (84%) applicants took advantage of internal review for the March 2014 competition.
  - Further support for SSHRC researchers: a new 4-stage model was launched to enhance the support provided to faculty in the development of their grant proposals. A new series of guidance documents were also developed and made available online to assist both faculty and research facilitators.
- The Tri-Agency Leaders also lead the U of S internal review process to assist the development of the following grants: CIHR Operating, CIHR Foundation, NSERC Discovery, SSHRC Insight, SSHRC Insight Development, and SSHRC Partnership Development.

### ***Gaining Momentum: One Health Initiative***

- The One Health Initiative, now in its second year, is a collaborative effort to advance research and training in an area of strength in order to establish the U of S as a leading One Health institution.
- Following external peer review, nine \$20,000 seed grants have been awarded to interdisciplinary research teams. These teams involve 35 U of S faculty members from 9 colleges and schools and 14 external collaborators.
- Beyond the seed grants, One Health research is thriving at the U of S: interdisciplinary teams of faculty have recently been awarded regional and national grants and a series of Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships.
- In January, 2015, University Council approved the establishment of a 6 credit unit graduate Certificate Program in One Health based upon the NSERC-CREATE Integrated Training Program in Infectious Disease, Food Safety and Public Policy. It is anticipated that this supplemental program will grow to an enrolment of 25 graduate students per year and attract outstanding students to the U of S from across the country.

- The One Health Leadership Experience, an annual weekend workshop, has successfully engaged 120 incoming health science students with respect to the role and applications of One Health in their future professional practices.

### ***Supporting New Faculty: Research Mentorship Program***

- Since 2012, 55% of all new hires have had Personalized Research Mentorship Teams (PRMTs) established, with 31 Department Heads or ADRs and over 125 research mentors participating.
  - 84% of PRMT members have indicated that the PRMT has helped with the development and implementation of the mentee's research plan.
- The Research Mentorship Program (RMP) continues to be promoted widely including discipline-specific presentations for college administrators and faculty, and an increased web presence, with information available at: <http://research.usask.ca/for-researchers/index.php>.
- Further materials have been developed to assist the development and maintenance of PMRTs, including a document of suggested roles/ responsibilities and a bibliography outlining effective practices.
- Annual Research Workshops were held in November 2014 for mentors and mentees, each of which was evaluated highly. A new RMP workshop for new faculty, together with their respective Department Heads and Associate Deans Research, is being planned for Fall 2015, to be held annually thereafter. This new workshop approach will highlight both instructional and research development supports available for mentees and their college administrators.

### ***Fostering Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Team Science***

- Team Science is an initiative supporting research collaboration on campus. A number of workshops and consultations have occurred, for example:
  - A workshop and a day conference centred on team science in the One Health area in October, 2014. Both events were organized along with the researchers applying to establish a One Health NCE based at the U of S.
- The OVPR and ADR Forum are examining strategies to support interdisciplinary research through supportive reward structures and recognition.
- The U of S will lead one of the panel discussions at the annual Science of Team Science (SciTS) conference in Washington, DC, June 2-5, 2015. Discussions will centre on lessons learned over 10 years of team science initiatives in the Health Sciences.

### ***Research Website Launched***

- The Office of the Vice-President Research launched a new website on October 1, 2014 bringing the OVPR's web presence in line with the university's branded style. The new website was created with the aim of providing improved service and intuitive access to information for U of S researchers and other stakeholders. The redesigned website represents U of S research as a whole rather than as a combination of separate units and was developed in collaboration with ICT and Communications.
- The new research website received over 100,000 page views between October 1 and April 30.

### ***Recruiting Top Talent***

- Centres: Two new Executive directors: Dr. Neil Alexander – Fedoruk Centre; Dr. Maurice Maloney – Global Institute for Food Security.
- Chairs: Canada Excellence Research Chair (1); NSERC Industrial Research Chair (1).

### **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: project remains in the design phase.
  - The Canadian Feed Research Centre: Formally opened in October 2014.
  - Saskatchewan Centre for Cyclotron Sciences: Construction of the cyclotron and associated laboratory facility was completed in December 2014 and the facility is now being commissioned.

### **Raising National Profile for U of S Research and Partnerships**

- The work of U of S researchers in a wide variety of science and health areas, especially signature areas of research, will be highlighted to a national audience through hosting the June 18-21, 2015 Canadian Science Writers' Association conference on our campus.
- U of S industrial partnerships through NSERC were highlighted and advanced through several initiatives this year including participating in a partnerships panel and organizing an "NSERC-U of S 5th Anniversary Partnership Celebration Event" attended by new NSERC president Mario Pinto and 80 university and local business people last November. The event featured 11 U of S-produced short videos on U of S Engage researcher-industry partnerships.
- For the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row, graduate students were mentored to produce 15 Young Innovator profiles of student researchers for publication in the StarPhoenix. These stories were picked up by granting agencies, MPs and MLAs for newsletters, various campus websites, and OCN.
- A strategy to optimize U of S engagement and research opportunities with the Remai Modern's Picasso linocut and ceramics collection is under development.
- STEMfest 2015 is an international conference celebrating, developing, and discussing the future of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and innovation. The conference will be held in Saskatoon in October and will host visitors from more than 55 countries.

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## **UNITS OF THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH**

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### **Industry Liaison Office**

The Industry Liaison Office (ILO) 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.

#### ILO metrics and successes

- Engaged in over 120 substantive conversations regarding development of business relationships
- Technology licenses completed: 8.
  - Options (to acquire a technology license) completed: 12.
- Inter-institutional technology-commercialization cooperation agreements: 3.
- ILO-managed license and royalty revenue: \$11.9 M (an increase from \$10.6 M in 2013/2014).
- Marketplace sales of ILO-licensed products since 2007 valued at approximately \$3.1 billion.
- Start-up companies (based on U of S-owned technologies):
  - Opportunities under review: 3.

- Spin-off companies (not based on U of S-owned technologies but developed by U of S-affiliated stakeholders):
  - 12 under assessment or receiving ongoing business support.
- Direct investments in U of S research, through the ILO's Forge-Ahead Fund:
  - 5 investments totalling approximately \$100,000.

#### Ongoing Projects

- The 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Technology Venture Challenge," a business development competition for the university community, was held to increasingly positive public reception:
  - 27 applications received; 11 finalists chosen for participation in workshops and mentoring.
- Coordination of a joint research program between the Province of Saskatchewan, Hitachi Ltd., and Hitachi GE Nuclear Energy Ltd:
  - Researchers from Japan visited Saskatoon to further their collaboration with the four U of S-based research groups involved and the three industry partners.
- Seed Accelerator (for early-stage technology-based start-up companies):
  - To address an area where Saskatchewan lags behind all other provinces, the ILO is working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy, Innovation Place, the Saskatchewan Angel Investor Network, WestCap Investments and others to establish a business acceleration facility accessible to technology-based start-up companies emanating from the university.
- ICT and U of S procurements:
  - The ILO is working with the university's CIO to establish a program for U of S ICT researchers to work with companies from which the university procures significant ICT-related products and services.
- Strategic Partnerships with Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC):
  - The ILO is helping establish strategic partnerships between the SRC and U of S groups (e.g. Global Institute for Water Security, Global Institute for Food Security, the College of Engineering, the ILO's Saskatchewan-Hitachi program, etc). These partnerships are expected to lead to new funding options for U of S researchers and the opportunity to interact with SRC's client base.
- Western Innovation Offices collaborative initiative:
  - The ILO is working with sister offices in universities and research institutions throughout Western Canada to establish a collaborative network with a view to improving collective commercialization outcomes and better enabling inter-institutional research collaborations.

#### ***International Office***

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

#### Transforming internationalization at the U of S

- IO has begun compiling university-wide internationalization data and college/school data for measuring progress in our commitment to diversity.
- Darcy Marciniuk (Special Advisor, Research and International), Patti McDougall (Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning), and Adam Baxter-Jones (Interim Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research) are leading the development of an action plan to enhance our internationalization commitment.

### Partnership Initiation and Agreement Development

- 23 new agreements were signed during this reporting period: 10 general collaboration MOUs, 6 student exchange renewals, 5 new student exchange agreements, 1 internship agreement, and 1 International Flagship Partner Grants Program MOU.
- International agreements data was migrated into the MoveOn software system.

### Delegation Support

- Supported 25 incoming delegations, including approximately 85 participants.
- Supported outgoing delegations in the form of briefing notes and promotional materials.

### Country Strategy Implementation

- In 2014-15, the International Office provided leadership, logistical, and operational support for a number of initiatives related to the University's country strategy.
- As part of the China Initiative, highlights include:
  - Establishing partnerships with both Shantou University and Beijing Jiaotong.
  - Signing an International Flagship Partnership Grants Agreement MOU with the Beijing Institute of Technology.
  - Preparations are underway to renew the U of S agreement and commitment of research and mobility collaboration with Jilin University.
- As part of the India Initiative, highlights include:
  - The renewal and expansion of the partnership agreements with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Punjab Agricultural University.
  - The College of Engineering is in the process of developing a student exchange program with current partner, the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur.

### Communication and data collection

- Prepared over 65 briefing notes and reports for university delegations and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education.
- Served as the first point of contact for government, international institutions, and prospective international students, replying to innumerable requests for information and assistance.
- Began development on a new International Office website in April 2015.
- As part of the CALDO university consortium, a website and products aimed at attracting South American students were developed by U of S Research Profile and Impact. A U of S story was featured in Dinheiro, Brazil's main business magazine.

### International Research Success

- Following an increased effort to support researchers in capturing funding opportunities offered once every two to three years, the value of international research awards increased by 30%.
- A total of \$10.8M was awarded to U of S researchers for international research and development projects.

### ***Research Services and Ethics Office***

The newly amalgamated Research Services and Ethics Office (RSEO) provides researchers with seamless services for grant, contract, and ethics review as well as ethics compliance.

### Operational Metrics

- Project applications for research funding from May 2014 to April 2015: **1022**.
  - Previous two years: 2013/14: **1142**, 2012/13: **1191**.

- Executed contracts from May to April: **459**.
  - Previous two years: 2013/14: **477**, 2012/13: **489**.
- Applications to the Biomedical REB were unchanged from the preceding year (367). The Behavioural REB has seen an increase of 12% (426 to 479) while the Animal REB has seen a decrease of 9% (163 to 148).

#### Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)

- Funding from the John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) was received for 12 projects for a total of \$1,465,577 in CFI funding and a total project cost of \$3,664,529.
- One Innovation Fund project was funded with \$3,318,565 from CFI for a total project cost of \$8,589,631. An additional \$165,000 was awarded to assist with multi-institutional administrative costs associated with the project.

#### Research Ethics Boards (REBs)

- The following faculty serve as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Research Ethics Boards:
  - University Committee on Animal Care and Supply (UCACS) and Animal Research Ethics Board: Dr. Michael Corcoran (Chair), Dr. Brenda Allan (Vice-Chair).
  - Biomedical Research Ethics Board: Dr. Ildiko Badea (Chair), Dr. Anne Springer (Vice-Chair).
  - Behavioural Research Ethics Board: Dr. Vivian Ramsden (Chair), Dr. Scott Tunison (Vice-Chair).
  - University Committee on Ethics in Human Research: Dr. Valerie Thompson (Chair).

#### Research Ethics Education

- Online research ethics and integrity training was provided to 1400 graduate students this year.
- Electronic self-study modules on important practical skills in animal user training were developed.

#### Research Ethics Harmonization

- U of S is participating in a U15 working group to examine opportunities for harmonized/coordinated ethics review among the U15 for multi-jurisdictional studies.
- Provincial research ethics review harmonization among the U of S, U of R, and RQHR has proven very successful with 120 studies handled through harmonized review in 2014-15 representing over 14% of studies submitted to the U of S Human REBs (a 24% increase over the last reporting year).
- The U of S Research Ethics Boards (REBs) are 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 Canadian Council of Animal Care issued a Good Animal Practice (GAP) certificate to the U of S as of April 23, 2014. GAP certificates were also issued to the Canadian Light Source; VIDO-InterVac, Prairie Swine Centre, and Canadian Food Inspection Agency Saskatoon Laboratory.
- The UCACS Surplus Animal/Tissue Share Databank was established by the University Veterinarian last year to reduce the number of animals used by providing researchers with surplus animals or tissue and blood from animals that are euthanized from other projects.
- In May 2015, the UCACS will implement an on-line system for central ordering, purchasing, and tracking of animals. The online order system will also allow animal users to submit a surplus tissue/animal request form and surplus tissue/animal donation form.

### Responsible Conduct of Research

- 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.

### Monitoring Visits/Audits/Inspections

- November 2014: a successful Tri-Agency Monitoring Visit occurred with the final report to be submitted to the VPR by end of April 2015.
- October 2014: two CIDA Projects and one AUCC managed project were audited.
- September 2014: the Children's Oncology Group conducted an audit of Pediatric Oncology studies conducted at the Saskatoon Cancer Centre.
- September and October 2014: the National Cancer Institute of Canada audited adult oncology studies conducted at both the Allan Blair Cancer Centre and the Saskatoon Cancer Centre.
- Health Canada scheduled and completed inspections of two industry-funded clinical trials. Both studies are facilitated by SCPOR. Health Canada also conducted an audit of Pediatric Oncology.
- July 2014: In response to a complaint filed by the Data Safety and Monitoring Committee, the Research Ethics Office coordinated a for cause audit conducted by an external individual.

### ***Strategic Research Initiatives***

The Strategic Research Initiatives (SRI) unit supports researchers in the development of large-scale collaborative grants and initiatives and coordinates programs of strategic importance to the university, including awards facilitation and the Undergraduate Research Initiative.

### Support for Large-Scale Grants

- The newly formed SRI unit has supported the development of:
  - Applications submitted to the Canada First Research Excellence Fund: 1.
  - Coordination of CERC Application: 1.
  - Letters of Intent submitted to NCE's Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research program: 1.
  - Applications submitted to Genome Canada's Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition: 5.
  - Letters of Intent submitted to NSERC's Collaborative Research and Training Experience program: 4.

### Research Connections Cafés

- SRI launched a new series of "Research Connections Cafés" in April 2015. These events will be held regularly to help connect researchers and identify research clusters demonstrating the greatest potential to move forward on the national and international stage. The SRI unit will work with these groups, mentoring their further development to ensure they are "innovation-ready" for large-scale funding opportunities and supporting their development into vibrant communities of engagement and creativity.

### Canada Research Chairs

- The CRC Secretariat announced the results of the 2014 CRC reallocation exercise in March 2015. The U of S chair allocation has been reduced from 32 to 30 due to the loss of two CIHR chairs - one Tier 1 and one Tier 2.
  - One CRC renewal was awarded in April 2015 - CIHR Tier 2.

### Undergraduate Research Initiative

- Launched in 2012, the Undergraduate Research Initiative is broadening engagement and awareness of undergraduate research at the U of S by supporting:
  - Meaningful curriculum-based research experiences;
  - Mentored student research experiences through faculty-supervised assistantships; and,
  - Opportunities to celebrate and showcase undergraduate research.
- Nearly 1500 students participated in the second year of the undergraduate research pilot-program, a major increase from the 330 students who participated in 2013-14.
  - This year's program included 14 100 level-courses offering students a curriculum-based research experience. The courses were led by 16 faculty collaborators from Social Sciences, Kinesiology, and Agriculture and Bioresources.
- 90 undergraduate students will experience research in all 15 colleges and schools through matching funding provided by the 2015 Undergraduate Student Research Assistantship program. This marks a 20% increase from the 2013-14 total of 75 students.
- A website was launched in fall 2014 to inform and provide resources to faculty, students and the campus community.
- The Initiative supported 4 events showcasing more than 160 undergraduate research projects in collaboration with partners across campus.
- The Initiative further developed its ties with the University Learning Centre by:
  - Supporting the development of the second issue of the University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal.
  - Offering a new series of workshops attended by 30 students.

### Awards Facilitation

- The SRI unit provides direct support for identifying candidates and developing nominations for faculty recognition awards and other major awards or prizes which recognize research contributions nationally and internationally.
- 29 new nominations and 7 updates to previous nominations for awards were submitted. Many of the decisions remain outstanding.
- Recent successful nominations have included:
  - The NSERC Synergy Award (Small & Medium-Sized Companies category) was awarded to Carey Simonson and Robert (Bob) Besant from the College of Engineering for their longstanding partnership with Venmar CES.
  - James (Jim) Waldram (Anthropology and Psychology) and Ajay Dalai (Engineering) were elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), bringing the U of S total to 17.
  - Jo-Anne Dillon (Medicine/VIDO), Ivar Mendez (Surgery) and Lawrence Brawley (Kinesiology) were elected Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, bringing the U of S total to 9.
- A proactive approach continues to be taken for identifying potential award candidates by holding regular meetings with department heads, Associate Deans of Research, and individual faculty. The Vice-President Research also chairs the Faculty Recognition Advisory Committee (FRAC), which evaluates and selects candidates for national and international awards and strategizes around improving the U of S awards profile and culture of faculty recognition.

### ***Office of Associate Vice-President Research***

The AVPR Office has taken over responsibility for all research-related data and metrics. The revised unit was formed through the readjustment of reporting lines with the goal of effectively addressing the increased demand for reliable research data.

#### Data Management & Metrics

- All research data, including over 15 years of legacy information was successfully migrated into the UnivRS system and integrated into the University Data Warehouse (UDW).
- The uView Report Portal, a tool used to access research information through the UDW, was further enhanced to allow users to access research award activity down to the project level.
- Significant collaborative effort was made working with Institutional Planning and Assessment and ICT Data and Reporting Services to provide research information, definitions, and analyses, for the draft development of institutional college profiles.
- Research metrics and analyses were provided for a variety of purposes including the U of S Achievement Record, an institutional review of the past 5 years, senior administration requirements, external surveys, and media.

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

The AVPR-H / VPR&I Office's goal is to produce collaborative health research and innovation opportunities between the U of S, the Saskatoon Health Region, and other stakeholders. The SHR again made the list of the top 40 Research Hospitals in Canada, maintaining its ranking of 35<sup>th</sup>.

#### Research Development Support Highlights

- 2 successfully funded SHRF Collaborative Innovation Development Grants, one in the area of breast Health and one in the area of Aboriginal health.
- 5 literature reviews were completed to inform stakeholders on the following topics: Capacity for Frontline Nurse Managers; Staffing, Skill Mix, and Patient Acuity on Psychiatric Inpatient Units; First Nations and Métis' Use of the Emergency Department; Navigation Services for First Nations and Métis' People; and Key Elements to Guide the Development of Health Care Processes.
- 3 evaluations of programs/services completed: The SHR Better Every Day 14-Day Challenge; the SHR Service Review of Programs; and the First Nations and Métis Health Service Strategic Review.
- 138 new research studies were approved within the SHR fiscal year (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015), with 401 ongoing studies. Topics of these studies vary from monitoring glucose in pregnant women with type-1 diabetes, to examining interventions for long-term care residents with dementia.

#### Canadian Institutes of Health Research Initiatives

- Facilitated two visits from the CIHR to disseminate information to the U of S research community, including: Dr. Dale Dempsey who provided an overview and answered questions about the Foundation Scheme program; and Dr. Jane Aubin, CIHR chief scientific officer and vice-president.
- Facilitated a multi-phase submission process for the Foundation Scheme Live Pilot #1. In total, 13 grants went through internal review, three of which were invited to Stage 2 of the competition.
- Launched the first CIHR Annual Appreciation Event in June, 2014 to celebrate U of S researchers who attained CIHR funding. A second event is being planning for September, 2015.
- As part of the CIHR nationwide Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR), a number of Networks were facilitated including the Pan-Canadian SPOR Network in Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations, and Phase One of the SPOR Networks in Chronic Diseases.

- Facilitated two provincial, multi-site workshops as part of the Knowledge Translation SPOR initiative. The November 2014 workshop introduced the SPOR initiative and a follow-up workshop will be held on May 25, 2015 to discuss SPOR-related initiatives in Saskatchewan.

#### Saskatoon Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR)

- The Saskatoon Centre for Patient-Oriented Research provides support and services to researchers conducting clinical research from academic, governmental, and industry fields.
- During 2014-15, SCPOR supported 180 clinical studies led by 62 principal investigators.
  - 111 studies were industry-sponsored, 69 were investigator-initiated.
- In 2015-16, SCPOR will be renamed the Clinical Trials Support Unit (CTSU) in anticipation of the new SCPOR SUPPORT Unit, of which the CTSU will be one component.

#### CIHR SPOR Network in Primary and Integrated Health Care Initiatives (PIHCI) Leadership Council

- The Joint Office facilitated the SPOR Primary and Integrated Health Care Initiatives (PIHCI) in Saskatchewan. PIHCI recently received a five-year \$1 million Phase II grant to administer and meet the goals of enhanced patient involvement in primary health care.

#### Saskatchewan Program for Nuclear Imaging

- The Joint Office worked with Dr. Paul Babyn and a multi-tiered team to facilitate the development of the Saskatchewan Program for Nuclear Imaging (SPNI), which will accelerate innovation in nuclear imaging tools and techniques and apply them to humans, animals, and plants.

#### ***Strategic Projects Team: Advancing Research Priorities and Initiatives***

Originally introduced during IP2, the Strategic Projects Team consists of recognized experts from the academy who are asked to help address emergent and strategic opportunities. 2014-15 Strategic Project members:

- Kevin Schneider (Computer Science, U of S) provided support to the UnivRS project, explored strategies for improved ICT resources/services for researchers, and facilitated development of ICT research.
- 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.
- Jim Thornhill has provided expert guidance to the Research Mentorship Program and the Team Science Initiative.
- Darcy Marciniuk (College of Medicine) has assumed the role of Special Advisor, Research and International, a role previously held by Harley Dickinson.

# 2015 Annual Report to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee of Council

CGSR RSAW 2015 Report

# 2015 Annual Report to the Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee of Council

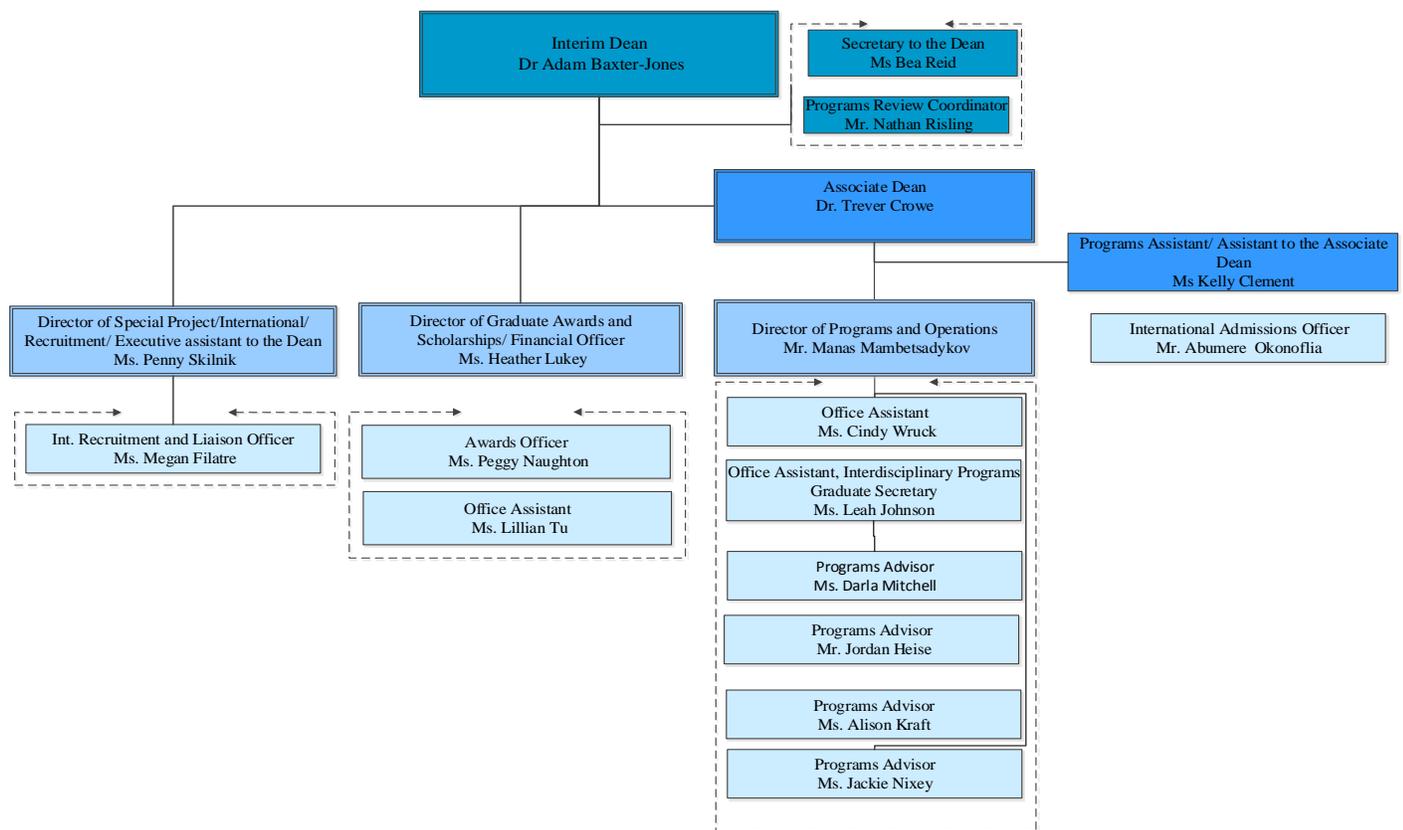
CGSR RSAW 2015 Report

During the 2014-2015 academic year (September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>) 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 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 and title changed to Interim Dean; (ii) Associate Dean Dr Trever Crowe’s performance was successfully reviewed and his contract was extended from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019. In 2014, Dr Ms. Cat Bonner resigned her position as Programs Assistant and was replaced by Ms. Kelly Clement. Mr. Nathan Risling extend his acting Graduate Programs Review Officer position until December 2015.



**CGSR Organizational Chart**

Ms. Darla Mitchell, who had been seconded to SESD’s International Admissions Office, returned to her position as Program Advisor. The previously titled Program Officer position became a Programs Advisor position and was taken up by Ms. Alison Kraft. Programs Advisor Ms. Susan Prpich went on maternity leave; this leave is being covered by Ms. Jackie Nixey. Ms. Jennifer Drennan also went on maternity leave and her position

of Director of Programs and Operations is being covered by Mr. Manas Mambetsadykov. In the award's office, the position of Office Assistant has recently been occupied by Ms. Lillian Tu. Ms. Megan Fillatre joined the unit as International Graduate Recruitment and Liaison Officer and Ms. Leah Johnston as Office Assistant Interdisciplinary Studies.

### **Student Numbers**

The graduate head count for 2014/2015 was 3,840 (this represents the total number of graduate students registered at any time between May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and April 31<sup>st</sup> 2015). This is a reduction of 1.6% compared to the same time period for 2013/2014. Five hundred and sixty nine students were in projected based courses, 648 in course based programs and 2,443 in thesis based programs, the other 180 were in other programs. Numbers in thesis based programs increased by 1%. Enrolment of international graduate students grew by 3.1%, the largest increase being among full time international PhD students. Thirty two percent of students in 2014/2015 were international students (n=1201); 27% were from China, 15% India, 12% Iran, 9% Nigeria, 6% Bangladesh and 5% USA. The remainder came from Ghana, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, and other countries. Two hundred and thirty nine graduate students self-declared as Aboriginal students, down 1.2% from 2013/2014.

### **Visiting Scholars**

In 2013 the number of visiting scholars reduced by 8% to 85. The vast majority of *Visiting Scholars* entered Canada on Visitor Visas with letters of invitation from the Dean of CGSR. In February 2015, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) changed some of its rules which has prompted the institution to evaluate the *Visiting Scholar* classification. Associate Dean Crowe has been working with members of HR and the University's legal representatives to ensure we comply with all new CIC regulations. The consequences of not complying could affect all international activities at the UoS, not just the appointment of *Visiting Scholars*. If you have employment at an international institution as faculty, or as a researcher, then you will likely enter Canada as a Visiting Professor (CIC definition and terminology). For this reason from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 the Office of the Vice-Provost Faculty Relations will be responsible for providing letters of

invitation to this designation of *Visiting Scholar*, as they are already responsible for *Visiting Professors* (UoS definition and terminology).

The Dean of CGSR will take responsibility for providing letters of admission to students admitted to a new non-degree program for *Visiting Research Students*. This new program will allow people to visit the university for the purpose of conducting research, replacing the previous process that required their applying as a *Visiting Scholar*. *Visiting Research Students* will hold a study permit which allows them to receive funding from university sources. The CGSR acknowledges the tremendous support and help provided by numerous people within SESD and the HR Division. We are currently working on an initial short-term solution to cover the remainder of this academic year while also devising a longer-term solution. The new *Visiting Research Student* category will accommodate a specific group of students who visit campus for a brief period, and these students will be similar but likely not identical to those who are admitted as a *Sandwich Student*. Our ongoing work will ensure CGSR can accommodate both. This year 14 students registered in the *Sandwich Student* program. We are currently checking all our agreements with international partners to ensure we can accommodate students identified within them.

### **College Membership**

In 2014-2015 there were 976 Graduate Faculty, of whom 46 were new Faculty, 48 new Adjuncts, and 12 new Professional Affiliates. In addition there were 42 new Associate Memberships.

### **Scholarships and Awards**

In 2014-2015 the College of Graduate Studies and Research administered approximately \$7.9 million of centrally funded money for graduate student support. This included ~\$205,000 in Graduate Service Fellowships, ~\$300,000 in Graduate Teaching Assistantships, ~\$639,000 in Graduate Teaching Fellowships, ~\$200,000 New Faculty Graduate Scholarships, ~\$1,200,000 Dean's Scholarships, ~\$850,000 International Dean's scholarships and ~\$3,650,000 in University Graduate Scholarships (Devolved and non-Devolved). For Dean's there were 167 applications and 60 scholarships awarded: 23 Masters and 37 PhD's. This is a 11% increase

from the 54 awarded in 2013-2014. There were 31 new and continuing graduate students that held University Graduate Scholarships (non-devolved), 18 masters and 13 PhD. \$1,521,000 was awarded through the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship, this included approximately 100 \$10,000 innovation scholarships and opportunity top-up scholarships.

### **Graduate Program Review**

The Graduate Program Reviews was restarted in the summer of 2014 after a 24 month hiatus. A total of 12 programs were reviewed this year: Biological Engineering, Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil and Geological Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Geological Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics, Mechanical Engineering and Physics and Engineering Physics.

### **Post-Doctoral Fellows**

CGSR has been working with the University's PDF to assist them with development of a University of Saskatchewan Society of Postdoctoral Scholars (SPS). A web site has been developed (<http://www.usask.ca/groups/sps/about/about-the-sps.php>), a constitution drawn up and the election of their inaugural Executive.

### **International Recruitment**

Recruitment activities by the College of Graduate Studies and Research are directed towards international students. There were 51 graduate students who held external scholarships registered in master's or PhD programs in 2014/2015. This represented approximately \$1M in external funding support for students pursuing graduate degrees at the U of S.

Fifteen faculty participated in the Faculty Ambassador Program this past year representing the University in China, Vietnam, Brazil, Ecuador and Canada. In addition, collaborative recruitment activities were undertaken with the University of Saskatchewan Language Centre (Vietnam) and the SESD (Latin America). The College continues to work with both of these administrative units in partnership with CALDO. Although there have not been any students referred through CALDO that subsequently registered

in a graduate program, the majority of referrals have been received over the last six months, and are seeking a 2015/2016 admission. To date, 26 students have been referred, of which three have been offered admission and a further five applications are still in progress. The most significant barrier to admission for these students is that a large proportion do not meet the U of S minimum admission requirements for English proficiency.

Sustaining ongoing relationships with existing partners, and, developing new agreements with potential partners to facilitate the admission of fully funded international graduate students into our programs continues to be a priority. The College received delegations from Japan, Ecuador and China, and, several collaborative initiatives are underway including a joint-degree with Tromsø (Norway), dual-degree with UGAS (Japan) and a flexible model for the delivery of PhD programs to master's qualified faculty at partner universities in Ecuador.

The Graduate Pathways Certificate program was launched in the fall of 2014 to provide 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. For further details see our web pages. Nominations for students to attend the GSR 981: Canadian Academic Acculturation and Literacy for International Graduate Students are being accepted now. The next intake begins August 19, 2015 and interested faculty are encouraged to contact Penny Skilnik for more information.

### **College Initiatives**

We now have an interactive online Policies and Procedures manual ([http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/for\\_fac\\_staff/Policy-and-Procedure-Manual.php](http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/for_fac_staff/Policy-and-Procedure-Manual.php)). In addition we have been working closely with ICT to introduce a paperless admissions process by employing Banner Document Management System. This is being piloted in 4 units starting September 2015. We are also working with ICT to introduce electronic thesis defense document sharing using SharePoint. SharePoint will also be used to manage document sharing for all CGSR committees starting fall 2015.

The composition of defense committee was discussed by CGSR's Academic Programs committee and it was decided not to change any of the requirements.

A concept paper on recommendations for future graduate administration is currently being prepared to be submitted to the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council in July 2015. With the idea recommendations can be taken to Council for approval in the fall. Recommendations are based on the Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Fellows Administrative Reorganization Report (circulated to Faculty in January 2015), a report profiling postdoctoral fellows at the University of Saskatchewan and consultations with the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council, the Senior Leadership Forum, Deans Council, College of Graduate Studies and Research Executive Council, College of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Council, College of Graduate Studies and Research Faculty Meeting and other College's Faculty Councils.



## COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Report of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

May 2014 – April 2015

### **Committee Composition**

Mostafa Aghbolaghy (GSA Representative), Dr. Avi Akkerman (to June 2014), Cat Bonner (Recorder, May-August 2014), Dr. Ravindra Chibbar, Kelly Clement (Recorder, September 2014 -), Dr. Trever Crowe (Associate Dean, CGSR), Dr. Maud Ferrari, Dr. Bonnie Janzen, Dr. Kent Kowalski (to June 2014), Dr. Veronika Makarova, Dr. Laureen McIntyre (Chair), Dr. Paul Orłowski, Dr. Louise Racine (Chair to June 2014), Dr. Chanchal Roy, Dr. Kara Somerville (to June 2014), Dr. Lisa Vargo (to June 2014), Dr. Khan Wahid

### **Nature of business conducted by the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee 2014-2015**

- New Course Proposals
- Graduate Course Modifications
- Special-Case Admissions
- Course Deletions
- Policy Review and Revision
- Allegations of Academic Misconduct
- Appeals

Please note:

\* indicates approval during May – August 2014 (after publication of the 2013-2014 report to Graduate Faculty)

### **New Course Proposals**

- ARCH 875.3 – *Advanced Bioarchaeology*
- BIOE 820.3 – *Tissue Engineering* \*
- CE 834.3 – *Water Resources Development*
- CE 836.3 – *Road Safety Engineering*
- CHEM 833.3 - *Characterization Methods in Materials Chemistry* \*
- CHEP 814.3 – *Food Systems and Community Health* \*
- ECON 833.3 – *Economic Evaluation Methods in Health Services Research*
- EFDT 801.3 – *Indigenous Lifelong and Adult Learning*
- ENVS 812.3 – *Statistical Methods in Environment and Sustainability*

- ENVS 813.3 – *Numerical Modeling for Environmental Scientists and Engineers*
- ENVS 825.3 – *Water Resources in Cold Regions*
- ENVS 826.3 – *Climate Change*
- ENVS 827.3 – *Breakthroughs in Water Security Research*
- ENVS 832.3 – *Risk Assessment and Negotiation of Environmental Issues*
- ENVS 832.3 – *River Science*
- EPSE 870.3 – *Professional Development Course Self-Study in Educational Psychology and Special Education \**
- FIN 871.3 – *Advanced Investment Practicum \**
- FREN 811.3 - *Advanced Topics in Translation Theory*
- FREN 812.3 - *Applied Translation Theory*
- FREN 846.3 - *Advanced Topics in Quebecois Theatre*
- JSGS 846..3 - *Cooperatives in the New Economy: Institutions, Governance, and Policy \**
- JSGS 885.3 - *Cooperative Governance and Leadership in Action \**
- ME 820.3 – *Structure and Properties of Polycrystalline Materials*
- ME 828.3 – *Design and Fabrication of Tissue Scaffolds*
- ME 865.3 – *Nonlinear Control Systems*
- PSY 812.3 – *Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Psychology*
- PUBH 814.3 – *Applied Health Economics*
- PUBH 815.3 – *Water and Health*
- SLSC 820.1 - *Agricultural Soil Management Practices in Saskatchewan*
- SLSC 822.1 - *Plant Root Systems: Sampling and Measurement*
- SLSC 823.1 - *Synchrotron-based Spectroscopy of Soils*
- SLSC 824.1 - *Tree Ring Systems: Sampling and Measurement*
- SLSC 835.2 - *Physical, Chemical and Biological Characterization of Soils*
- SLSC 836.2 - *Field Studies of Saskatchewan Soils*
- SLSC 845.1 - *Soil Ecology*
- SLSC 850.1 - *Experimental Design in Soil Sciences*
- SLSC 851.1 - *Univariate Statistics in Soil Science*
- SLSC 852.1 - *Multivariate Statistics in Soil Science*
- VLAC 873.3 – *Advanced Bovine Medicine (Revision from VLAC 872.6)*
- VSAC 875.3 – *Advanced Small Animal Orthopedic Principles*
- VSAC 878.3 – *Small Animal Anesthesia (revision from VSAC 868.6: Advanced Anesthesia)*

### **Graduate Course Modifications**

- CMPT 817.3 - *Usability Engineering (remove pre-requisites)*
- CMPT 840.3 – *Accessible Computing (remove pre-requisites)*
- CMPT 858.3 – *Topics in Modeling and Operations Research (remove pre-requisites)*
- ECUR 832.3 – *Practicum (Change to calendar description) \**
- ERES 840.3 – *Statistical Research Methods (changes to title and pre-requisites)*
- ERES 841.3 – *Advanced Statistical Research Methods (changes to title and pre-requisites)*
- ERES 845.3 – *Qualitative Research Methods (change to title)*
- ETAD 803.3 - *Multimedia Design for Learning (remove pre-requisites)*
- ETAD 877.3 - *Video Design for Learning (remove pre-requisites)*
- ETAD 879.6 - *Advanced Video Design for Learning (remove pre-requisites)*

- JSGS 831.3 – *Performance Management* (title change)
- MBA 992.3 – *Venture Management* (title change, pre-requisite change, content change)
- NURS 997.0 – *Doctoral Seminar* (change to calendar description)
- PHIL 990.0 – *Seminar* (change to catalogue description)
- PSY 803.3 – *Culture, Health and Human Development* (title change)
- PTH 835.2 – *Health Promotion and Wellness* (change to title and catalogue description)
- PUBH 805.3 – *Biostatistics for Public Health* (Remove pre-requisites)
- PUBH 807.3 – *Health Program Planning and Evaluation* (remove pre-requisites) \*
- PUBH 992.6 – *Public Health Practicum* (addition of PUBH 807.3 and GSR 961.0 as pre-requisite requirements) \*
- VMBS 833.3 – *Subclinical Toxicology* (change to pre-requisites)

### **Course Deletions**

- ARCH 870.6 – *Seminar in Bioarchaeology*
- SLSC 803.3 - *Research Approaches in Soil Element Biogeochemistry*
- SLSC 812.3 - *Plant Root System and Nutrient Uptake*
- SLSC 843.3 - *Soil Nitrogen in the Environment*
- VSAC 868.6 - *Advanced Anesthesia*

### **Special-Case Admissions**

- Admission of 2 students to PhD in Curriculum Studies
- Admission of 2 students to PhD in Native Studies

### **Policy Review and Revision**

- 13.2: Appointment of the External Examiner (reviewed and accepted with current language)
- 13.3. Scheduling the Oral Examination (reviewed and accepted with current language)
- 10.1: Advisory Committee (reviewed and accepted with current language)
- 10.5. Student Transfers (minor revisions to be considered by Graduate Faculty)

### **Allegations of Academic Misconduct**

- The Committee formed eight subcommittees to hear allegations of academic misconduct made against nine students. (Members of the Graduate Programs Committee helped form misconduct hearing committees.)

### **Appeals**

- The Committee formed one subcommittee to hear one appeal (RTD).



## COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Report of the Graduate Programs Committee

May 2014 – April 2015

### **Committee Composition**

Cat Bonner (Recorder, May-August 2014), Kelly Clement (Recorder, September 2014 - ), Dr. Ron Cooley, Dr. Trevor Crowe (Associate Dean, CGSR), Ranjan Datta (GSA Representative), Dr. Michel Desjardins, Dr. Ralph Deters (Chair to June 2014), Dr. David DiZhang (to June 2014), Dr. Tasha Epp (to June 2014), Dr. Donna Goodridge (to June 2014), Dr. Ali Honaramooz, Dr. Dwight Makaroff (to June 2014), Dr. Jafar Soltan Mohommadzadeh, Dr. Dionne Pohler (Chair), Dr. Debbie Pushor (to June 2014), Dr. Louise Racine, Dr. Cheryl Waldner, Dr. Leon Wegner (to June 2014), Dr. Susan Whiting, Qin Xiang (GSA Representative to June 2014)

### **Nature of business conducted by the Graduate Programs Committee 2014-2015**

- Program name changes at the major and concentration levels
- New Graduate Degree-Level Certificates
- New Degree-Level Fields of Specialization
- Program modifications
- Program terminations
- New Program-level options
- New Degrees
- Assisted the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee to form hearing boards for allegations of academic misconduct cases.

Please note:

\* indicates approval during May – August 2014 (after publication of the 2013-2014 report to Graduate Faculty)

### **Program Name Changes**

- Psychology: Culture and Human Development concentration \*
  - Now Psychology: Culture, Health and Human Development
- Native Studies programs
  - Now Indigenous Studies

### **New Graduate Degree-Level Certificates**

- Certificate in Social Economy and Co-operatives
- Certificate in One Health

### **New Degree-Level Fields of Specialization**

- Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics
- Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

### **New Degrees**

- Master of Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas
  - New joint degree to be offered with the University of Tromsø, Norway
- Master of Water Security
  - New professional degree

### **New Program-level Options**

- New project option for the Master of Arts in Political Studies

### **Program Modifications**

- Master of Education in Educational Psychology and Special Education, School and Counseling Psychology
  - Remove SCP 815 from list of required courses; reduce total credit unit requirement from 36 credit units to 33 credit units; increase options for research methods course requirements
- Master of Science in Kinesiology
  - Clarify requirements for research methods and data analysis course requirements; expand elective options to include courses outside of Kinesiology
- Master of Arts in Political Studies
  - Expand options for research methods course requirement
- Master of Science in Plant Sciences
  - Remove requirement for qualifying exam
- Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art
  - Changes to selection criteria – reduce number of slides required in application

- Master of Public Administration
  - Increase credit unit requirement from 30 credit units to 36 credit units; increase in core program requirements; decrease in elective course options
- Master of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner
  - Change to selection criteria – reserve equity seating
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing
  - Implement direct-entry PhD admission option
- Master of Science in Soil Science
  - Introduce required courses
- Doctor of Philosophy in Soil Science
  - Introduce required course in experimental design
- Master of Northern Governance and Development
  - Changes to individual course credit count; changes to required courses
- Master of Arts in Religion and Culture
  - Open up elective course options
- Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology \*
  - Change the advanced research methods course requirement

### **Program Terminations**

- Master of Agriculture degree option in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science
- Post-Graduate Diploma in French
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Computer Science

### **Allegations of Academic Misconduct**

- The Committee helped form eight subcommittees to hear allegations of academic misconduct made against nine students. (Assisted the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee.)

Awards Committee Report, 2014-2015.

Committee work as of May 1st, 2015:

### **1. Membership**

- Darrell D. Mousseau, Dept. of Psychiatry (Chair)
- Angela Bedard-Haughn, Dept. of Soil Science
- Andrew Grosvenor, Dept. of Chemistry
- Tony Kusalik, Dept. of Computer Science
- Karen Lawson, Dept. of Psychology
- Allison Muri, Dept. of English
- Shaun Murphy, Dept. of Educational Foundations
- Additional University Faculty or graduate student acting as invited reviewers in specific competitions are identified.

### **2. Awards Staff**

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

### **3. Activities**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The mandate of the Awards Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) is to review and adjudicate applications for scholarships and graduate thesis awards. Committee membership is chosen to provide representation across the tri-council funding streams. Externally funded competitions adjudicated by the committee included the Vanier Scholarship as well as SSHRC Doctoral, NSERC Doctoral, CIHR-Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's, and NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Awards. Internally funded competitions included the CGSR Dean's Scholarship (1<sup>st</sup> round in December, 2014; 2<sup>nd</sup> round in March 2015) and the University Graduate Scholarship (non-devolved) competitions.

There was a significant increase in the number of applications in all competitions. For several of the competitions i.e. Vanier, Dean's Scholarship, the entire Awards Committee reviewed the applications. To accommodate the increased volume in tri-council-specific competitions, sub-committees were convened. Sub-committee membership is highlighted with the description of the individual competitions for the 2014-2015 academic year. CGSR Awards staff (Lukey and Naughton) was present for each and every adjudication.

These competitions were (in chronological order):

### **3.2 Vanier-graduate scholarships (Nov 03, 2014)**

Full committee – D. Mousseau (Chair), A. Bedard-Haughn, A. Grosvenor, T. Kusalik, K. Lawson, A. Muri, S. Murphy, D. Saunders (Graduate student representative and Vanier Scholar; Toxicology).

The number of Vanier scholarship applications reviewed at this university was 11. 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 3, NSERC a quota of 8 and SSHRC a quota of 5 candidates. The committee ranked candidates based on academics (33%) and research potential (33%) as well as leadership (33%) –*i.e* record of and future potential. The latter category usually does not get weighted in the ranking for most scholarship competitions. As such, this highly prestigious scholarship is in recognition of Canada's best graduate students, and 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 three applications received in the CIHR pool, two applications in the NSERC pool and three for the SSHRC pool. Some of the applications were not particularly strong and the quotas were not filled in all cases. This year the University received one Vanier Award, and this was for an applicant from the SSHRC pool.

### **3.3 NSERC Post-graduate scholarships - PGS D, and (Nov 17, 2014)**

Sub-committee – A. Bedard-Haughn (Chair), A. Grosvenor, T. Kusalik, D. Saunders (Graduate student representative; Toxicology).

This year, NSERC was expecting to award 245 Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships (\$35,000 per year) and 417 new PGS D (\$21,000 per year). The CGSR Awards Committee received 31 applications for the NSERC PGS competition. These were evaluated using NSERC's evaluation criteria. The University's quota was 27. As above, only those applications that were deemed by the sub-committee to be of high enough quality were forwarded. Of the 26 applications forwarded, 9 were awarded scholarships (2 CGS-D, 7 PGS-D and 4 others are on the alternate list for PGS-Ds).

### **3.4 SSHRC Doctoral & Canada Graduate Scholarships-PhD (Jan 23, 2014)**

Sub-committee – S. Murphy (Chair), K. Lawson, A. Muri, Jenn Budney (Graduate student representative and a recipient of the Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship; JSGS).

The University quota for nominations to be considered at the federal level for the SSHRC doctoral competition was 17. The committee reviewed 29 applications and, of the 17 forwarded to the national level for consideration for SSHRC doctoral awards, nine were awarded. Two were SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships (valued at \$20,000 per year) and seven were awarded at the higher level SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship-PhD (valued at \$35,000 per year).

### **3.5 NSERC, CIHR & SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (CGSM) Program**

NSERC Sub-committee (Feb 23, 2015) – A. Grosvenor (Chair), A. Bedard-Haughn, T. Kusalik, D. Saunders (Graduate student representative).

CIHR Sub-committee (Feb 25, 2015) – D. Mousseau (Chair), Wolfgang Walz (Psychiatry), Linda Chelico (Microbiology and Immunology) and Oluwafemi Oluwole (Graduate student representative; Community and Population Health Sciences)

SSHRC Sub-committee (Feb. 26, 2015) – S. Murphy (Chair), K. Lawson, A. Muri, J. Budney (Graduate student representative)

The University has been 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.* these applications are not adjudicated at the federal level). Each university was able to set their own guidelines for determining awards. There were 56 applications for the NSERC-CGSM competition, 15 applications for the CIHR-CGSM competition, and 73 applications for the SSHCR-CGSM competition. 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. Offers of award were sent out April 1, 2015 and at the time of this report the CGSR is still waiting on 3 students to accept. If any offer is rejected, the CGSR Awards office then moves down the reserve list to make any remaining offers.

### **3.6 Dean's Scholarship (1<sup>st</sup> round: Dec 15, 2014; 2<sup>nd</sup> round: Mar 5, 2015)**

Full committee – D. Mousseau (Chair), A. Bedard-Haughn, A. Grosvenor, T. Kusalik, K. Lawson, A. Muri, S. Murphy.

Given the number and the breadth of disciplines involved, the Dean's Scholarships were considered by the full CGSR Awards Committee. Two competitions were held. Departmental rankings, publications/presentations as well as academic standing were taken into consideration when forming the composite rankings. Departmental rankings were considered, as was entrance and/or current GPA, summary of the proposed project, and productivity (publications or conference presentations) along with academic standing and reference letters as part of the determination of rank.

In the December 2014 competition, 48 applications (19 from domestic students and 29 from international students) were considered. For the first competition, the CGSR Awards Committee offered 5 Master's and 8 PhD Dean's Scholarships. In the March 2015 competition, 135 applications (46 from domestic students and 89 from international students) were considered. For this second competition, the CGSR Awards Committee offered 30 Master's and 53 PhD Dean's Scholarships. Award counts for the Dean's scholarship are not finalized until all scholarships offered are officially accepted by students and all students have determined how they fared in tri-council competitions where applicable. These Dean's Scholarships are expected to start as early as May, 2015.

### **3.7 NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA, Mar 9, 2015)**

Sub-committee – A. Grosvenor (Chair), A. Bedard-Haughn, T. Kusalik, D. Saunders (Graduate student representative).

The quota for USRA awards at this university remained at 65 awards. One change made by the CGSR this year was to allow faculty members to nominate two new students for the competition rather than just one (as was the practice in previous years). Also, faculty members could nominate a recipient from last year as a renewal. Thus, the maximum number one faculty member could nominate was three applicants. This year, 114 applications were submitted for the competition, which was a significant increase over the 71 application received last year. These applications were ranked based on academic standing, research potential and the proposed project. After ranking the top 65 applications, the committee also approved the remaining applicants as a reserve list in the event that any awards were declined.

### **3.8 CAGS-UMI (Mar 23, 2015)**

Full committee – D. Mousseau (Chair), A. Bedard-Haughn, A. Grosvenor, T. Kusalik, K. Lawson, A. Muri, S. Murphy.

The CAGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Awards recognize doctoral dissertations from a Canadian Institution that make highly significant and original contributions to their academic field. The CGSR Awards Committee received eight nomination packages to review – five that fall under Engineering, Medical Sciences, and Natural Sciences; and three that fall under Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. One dissertation from each category, as prescribed, will be nominated for the national competition. At the time of this report, the results of this competition have not been publicly announced.

### **3.9 University Graduate Scholarships (UGS), Non-devolved (March 26, 2015)**

Full committee – D. Mousseau (Chair), A. Bedard-Haughn, A. Grosvenor, T. Kusalik, K. Lawson, A. Muri, S. Murphy.

There were 30 applications to consider for the non-devolved UGS competition. After ranking, the committee awarded 12 scholarships (5 Master's and 7 doctoral). Departmental rankings were considered along with academic standing and reference letters as part of the determination of rank.

### **3.10 Governor's Gold Medal & University of Saskatchewan Thesis Awards 2015**

The CGSR Awards Committee received applications for the Governor's Gold Medal & University of Saskatchewan Thesis Awards at the Master's and at the PhD level. At the Master's level, packages from the Humanities and Fine Arts (2), Life Sciences (8), Physical and Engineering Science (4) and the Social Sciences (5) have been received. At the PhD level, packages from the Humanity and Fine Arts (1), Life Sciences (3), Physical and Engineering Science (4) and the Social Sciences (4) have been received. At the time of this report, these

thesis awards had not yet been adjudicated. Results will be made known at the meeting of the CGSR Graduate Council (May 12, 2015).

**Conclusions and observations of the committee Chair.**

The composition of the CGSR Awards Committee is intended to provide the most transparent and equitable review of applications, with representation from disciplines that fall within each of the tri-council funding agency mandates. Adjudication and the weighting of factors (e.g. GPA, productivity, project objectives and goals etc) is in compliance with agency rules, where applicable, and follows similar rubric's for other competitions, i.e. the Dean's Scholarship. With changes in funding levels and changes in tri-council guidelines and quotas, the challenge faced by the CGSR Awards Committee is to identify those most highly qualified applicants who merit recognition. The level of funding leaves the Committee with the difficult task of identifying the cut-off between those applications that get funded and those that do not. As in previous years and as with most competitions, there are a small number of excellent applications and there are those applications that require substantially more work. The biggest difficulty faced by the Awards Committee is ranking those applications that fall between these two extremes. If there was one conclusion that the Awards Committee could draw from our collective experience, it is that the applications that exceeded were more often than not those applications where it was abundantly clear that the (proposed) supervisor invested time in reviewing, editing and helping the applicant prepare an application deserving of being considered for an award.

The number of applications reviewed this year was significantly higher than in previous years, perhaps again reflecting the changes in the national funding allocation for research and graduate initiatives. The academic members of the Awards Committee are to be commended for their effort and time. A large portion of their effort requires reviewing applications on their own time and in preparing informative comments on the individual applications that will be used during the Committee's face-to-face review meetings when a given application's strengths and weaknesses are considered and a panel-wide consensus is made on rank.

Of course, the workload of the Awards Committee is made much more manageable by the behind-the-scenes work put in by the CGSR Staff members, Heather Lukey and Peggy Naughton. By the time the Committee receives the competition-specific packages, all of the applications have been checked for completeness, basic information has been collected and tabulated on a spreadsheet, and any grade conversion, if required, has been done. Furthermore, Heather and Peggy are also readily found at their desk at all hours of the day, so that communications with the CGSR Awards Office is always seamless. They are to be commended for their diligence and tireless work ethic, and for their unwavering commitment to contributing to a positive Graduate experience on the University campus.

Report prepared on May 03, 2015, by



Darrell D. Mousseau, Chair  
CGSR Awards Committee

**INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES PROGRAM**  
**ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**April 2015**

**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](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 subject

### **3. THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The elected membership to the Committee, their affiliation with departments and interdisciplinary area.  
The members for 2013-2014:

- \*Graduate Faculty Member: D. Morrison, Curriculum Studies, 2017
- \*Graduate Faculty Member: S. Rahimi, Archaeology and Anthropology, 2015 replace P. Hackett, Geography and Planning, 2016 (sab July 1/14 – June 30/15)
- \* Graduate Faculty Member: F. Wu, Mechanical Engineering, 2015
- \*Graduate Faculty Member: J. Moffat, College of Engineering, 2016
- \*Graduate Faculty Member: J. Norton, Surgery, 2017
- \*Graduate Faculty Member: J. Davison, Nursing, 2016
- GSA Representative: R. Chakravarty
- Associate Dean: T. Crowe
- Dean, CGSR: A. Baxter-Jones

We anticipate considerable turnover for the coming year due to sabbatical leaves and the end of one member's term. This may prove a challenge to operations of the program over this period.

### **4. STUDENTS AND GRADUATING CLASSES**

At present there are 22 students registered in Interdisciplinary Studies Programs all of which are in PhD programs. There were four students who started in in the fall of 2014.

The program had three students graduate in spring 2014 and two students graduate in fall of 2014. As well, there are three students who have successfully defended their thesis in the winter term of 2015 and will attend convocation in June, 2015.

### **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 five seminars and nine 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- gong 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 focused on 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 2015, there was a network of 198 faculty scholars in diverse disciplines serving on the Student Advisory Committees from 11 colleges that accommodate 59 academic departments, three schools and two 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, namely, 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 support person, Leah Johnson. This tends to detract from our attempts to create a presence for the program.

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 will be planned for the upcoming academic year and the website has been revised to enable ease of navigation, access to information and showcases students and their research.