



## GFC Standing Committee Report

Committee: GFC Research Planning Committee

For the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

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The GFC Research Planning Committee (RPC) is the primary advisory body to the Vice-President (Research) and is consulted on issues within the research and innovation portfolio. The following is a report on the committee's activities as well as those of its Review Panels for the 2020-21 academic year.

### 1.0 GFC RESEARCH PLANNING COMMITTEE

#### Members

	Representative	Term
Committee Chair	Robert Wood	ongoing
Associate Vice-President (Research) or designate	Helen Kelley	Ex-officio
Provost & Vice-President (Academic) or designate*	Mary Kavanagh/Josie Mills	Ex-officio
Arts & Science, Humanities	Inge Genee	30-Jun-21
Arts & Science, Sciences	Hans-Joachim Wieden	30-Jun-20
Arts & Science, Social Sciences	Michelle Hogue	30-Jun-20
Dhillon School of Business	Brad Olson	30-Jun-21
Education	Amy von Heyking	30-Jun-21
Fine Arts	Aaron Taylor	30-Jun-20
School of Graduate Studies	Elizabeth Galway	30-Jun-20
Health Sciences	Cheryl Currie	30-Jun-20
Liberal Education	Jon Doan	30-Jun-21

\* Mary Kavangah served on the committee as the designate for the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) from September to December 2020 while Josie Mills was on study leave.

#### Meetings

##### **September 30, 2020 (via video conference)**

R.Wood provided an overview of the committee including its position within the GFC reporting structure, the restructuring of its roles and responsibilities, as well the review panels that report to it.

Business conducted at the meeting included:

- Reviewing the SOURCE Program,
- Receiving the reports from the Animal Welfare and Human Subject Research Committees, and
- Discussing the emergence of ad hoc research committees outside the GFC Research Planning Committee structure.

##### **December 3, 2020 (via video conference)**

Business conducted at the meeting included:

- Approving requests submitted to the Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund,
- Discussing the disparity in course load for research chairs in different faculties,
- Discussing a process for selecting institutional proposals when an institutional quota is applied, and
- Reviewing the eligibility criteria for SOURCE mentors and reviewers.

### **March 3, 2021 (via video conference)**

Business conducted at the meeting included:

- Reviewing the internal review process for selecting institutional proposals,
- Reviewing Board of Governors Research Chair guidelines to address course load inequities
- Discussing GPA considerations for Chinook Research Summer Awards, and
- Discussing how to build a culture of award nominations across campus.

### **May 6, 2021 (via video conference)**

Business conducted at the meeting included:

- Discussing revisions to the University of Lethbridge Research Fund to support Scholarship of Teaching and Learning applications,
- Approving changes to the Board of Governors Research Chair guidelines to address course load inequities, and
- Setting the value of the University of Lethbridge Travel Fund for 2021/22.

## **2.0 CENTERS AND INSTITUTES REVIEW PANEL**

The Review Panel's mandate is to make recommendations to the Vice-President (Research) on the establishment and renewal of University Centres/Institutes.

The Review Panel did not convene in 2020/21.

## **3.0 RESEARCH CHAIRS REVIEW PANEL**

The Review Panel's mandate is to make recommendations to the Vice-President (Research) on new and renewal nominations for the Board of Governors Research Chair (BoGRC) program.

### Members

The interim Vice-President (Research) convened two discipline-specific committees to shortlist the applicants. Members were selected from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers. as follows:

### Meetings

#### **March 2, 2021 and March 8, 2021 (via video conference)**

The Social Sciences & Humanities Review Panel and the Natural & Medical Sciences Review Panel met on March 2 and March 8, respectively to review applications submitted to the current call for Tier I BoGRC applications. The meeting included a discussion on the role of the committee, an overview of the BoGRC program, and the number of chairs available in the current call. The interim Vice-President (Research) discussed current Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives. Panel members were also asked to complete the Unconscious Bias training module developed by Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat.

The committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each application and recommended 6 of 16 applicants as meritorious for a BoGRC appointment. A committee comprised of the Faculty/School Deans made final recommendations to the interim Vice-President (Research).

## 4.0 INTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING REVIEW PANELS

The following review panels review and adjudicate research proposals for internal research funding competitions and distribute funds for research grants and undergraduate student stipends and awards.

### 4.1 ALBERTA INNOVATES SUMMER STUDENTSHIPS

#### Members

The Review Panel was comprised of the following individuals:

- Bryan Kolb (Neuroscience),
- Cheryl Currie (Health Sciences), and
- Chelsea Ekstrand (Neuroscience).

#### Meetings

##### **March 9, 2021 (via video conference)**

The review panel reviewed applications from Alberta Innovates Summer Research Studentships (AISRS) that were received for the 2021 competition. The review panel ranked the 28 applications from highest to lowest using the Pro-Grid system. Awards were offered to the top 12 students.

### 4.2 CHINOOK RESEARCH AWARDS

#### Members

The Review Panel was comprised of the following members from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers:

- Borries Demeler (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- Ute Kothe-Wieden (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- Dmytro Yevtushenko (Biological Sciences)
- Richelle Marynowski (Education)
- James Sanders (Health Sciences)
- Jenny McCune (Biological Sciences)
- Kevin McGeough (Geography)
- Rhiannon Mesler (Dhillon School of Business)
- Derek Peddle (Geography)

#### Meetings

##### **March 10, 2021 (via video conference)**

The Grants Facilitator chaired this meeting and discussed expectations for review of applications and divided the committee members into groups of three for application review.

##### **Recipient selection (via email)**

The review panel adjudicated 58 applications with each member reading 19 applications. Final rankings were discussed via email due to COVID-19. The review panel offered 20 awards valued at \$8,730 (comprised of the Chinook Stipend, and top ups from the supervisor and the University operating funds).

### 4.3 COMMUNITY OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES (CREDO)

#### Reviewers

The Grants Facilitator (SSHRC) solicited two reviews from U of L faculty members with expertise in a similar field to provide feedback and rankings on 1 of the 7 applications. Reviewers included:

- Bryan Kolb (Neuroscience)

- Dawn Burleigh (Education)
- Deanna Oye (Music)
- Gulden Ozcan (Sociology)
- Julia Brassolotto (Health Sciences)
- Kristine Alexander (History)
- Trevor Harrison (Sociology)
- Christine Clark (New Media)

#### Meetings

**No meetings occurred for this panel.**

The rankings and comments provided by the SOURCE Peer Reviewers were assembled and reviewed by the Grants Facilitator and AVPR via email. All seven applications were awarded funding of \$15,000 over two years.

### 4.4 UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE RESEARCH FUND (ULRF) REVIEW PANEL

#### Members

Chaired by the Associate Vice-President (Research)/Dean, School of Graduate Studies, application reviewers were selected from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers based on their expressed levels of expertise and lack of conflict of interest for particular applications. The following SOURCE Reviewers provided reviews on one or more applications:

- Anne Dymond (Art)
- Jan Newberry (Anthropology)
- Greg Pyle (Biological Sciences)
- Dawn McBride (Education)
- Daniela Sirbu (New Media)
- Noella Piquette (Education)
- Rob Laird (Biological Sciences)
- Leanne Elias (New Media)
- Athena Elafros (Sociology)

#### Meetings

**No meetings occurred for this panel.**

In past competitions, two external reviews were solicited for each ULRF application. However, in the 2020/2021 competition, there were sufficient funds to support all of the applications received if they were deemed meritorious by the SOURCE Reviewers. In lieu of external reviews, we solicited internal reviews from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers. The application was funded if the reviews received from the SOURCE members were unanimously positive as reviewed by the Chair of the panel. There was one application which was deemed as not meritorious and was not recommended for funding by the SOURCE reviewers. Overall, ten proposals were awarded funds for a total of \$71,940.

### 4.5 LIFE AND CLIMATE AWARDS

The Review Panel's mandate is to adjudicate the Life and Climate Awards.

The Review Panel did not convene in 2020/21.

### 4.6 NATURAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

#### Members

Eight members from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers were appointed as representatives from each department within the natural sciences. The members were as follows:

- Julie Lee-Yaw (Biological Sciences),
- Athan Zovoilis (Chemistry & Biochemistry),
- Philip Bonnaventure & Laura Chasmer (Geography),
- Claudia Gonzalez (Kinesiology & Physical Education),
- Joy Morris (Mathematics & Computer Sciences),
- Majid Mohajerani (Neuroscience),
- Locke Spencer (Physics & Astronomy) - Chair, and
- Vacant (Psychology).

### Meetings

#### **Calibration meeting (via video conference)**

The review panel met for a calibration meeting on March 1, 2021.

#### **Adjudication meeting (via video conference)**

On March 10, 2021, the Review Panel adjudicated 63 applications to fill our institutional quota of 25 awards. The committee offered 28 awards valued at \$8,730 (comprised of the NSERC USRA Stipend and top-ups from the supervisor and the University operating funds) which includes 5 awards to eligible Indigenous students but do not count towards our institutional quota.

#### **Evaluation of the selection criteria (via video conference)**

On April 28, 2021, the committee reconvened to review the criteria and establish best practices in preparation for the summer competition in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Robert Wood  
Interim Vice-President (Research)  
Committee Chair