

RAC Minutes

November 12, 2020 | 1:30pm-3:30pm | BlueJeans

Present: Satwinder Bains (Chair), Jerri-Lynne Cameron, Irwin Cohen, Garry Fehr, Sandra Gillespie, Masud Khawaja, Lucy Lee, Zina Lee, Amanda McCormick, Jon Thomas, Christine Eelsey, Joanna Sheppard, Gillian Hatfield, Cindy Jardine, Claire Hay, Alastair Hodges, Shawn Geniole, Keith Carlson, Mariano Mapili, Martha Dow

Recorder: Kelly Tracey.

Regrets: James Bedard, Shelley Canning, Mary Higgins, Dieter Geesling, Olav Lian, Mai Anh Doan, Lenore Newman

Welcome and Introductions

1. ITEMS FOR ADOPTION

1.1 Agenda: 2020 NOV 12

MOTION: THAT the agenda from the November 12, 2020 RAC meeting be approved as presented – Garry announced nominations

Joanna Sheppard, Christine Eelsey CARRIED

1.2 Minutes: 2020 SEPT 17

MOTION: THAT the minutes from the September 17, 2020 RAC meeting be approved as presented

Gillian Hatfield, Jerri-Lynne Cameron CARRIED

2. BUSINESS

2.1 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in research and at UFV – Jerri-Lynne Cameron

Jerri-Lynne Cameron shared that the President’s EDI call for actions have been released. Funders of research are requiring more concrete EDI details, identifying barriers, providing real plans to address these requirements. Identifying barriers around hiring research personnel was raised and how to ensure these barriers are broken down. Suggestions about how to level the playing field for student research assistants and providing access to them for RA opportunities to provide more equity was discussed.

Group discussion:

Garry explained that the research office will be facilitating workshops on EDI and decolonizing research. A request was made to the RAC membership for experts who would be interested in participating with the workshops.

Cindy Jardine brought up a request she received from an Indigenous community asking if UFV could offer a research methods course remotely to a community in the NWT. Garry said he would talk with Cindy after the RAC meeting to discuss the request further.

Discussion included other examples of research courses being offered online to remote Indigenous communities through partnerships with post-secondary institutions.

A member mentioned that their department was currently at the stage of learning about unconscious biases and that next steps will be focusing on how to bring EDI policies into the hiring process and that it would be helpful if a workshop included this topic.

A member mentioned that Dr. Janelle Joseph from the University of Toronto put on a workshop from a lens of sport and systemic racism. Dr. Joseph's research is specific to the area of racism. The issue arose regarding how difficult it can be to reach students in their earlier years of study to become active in research but how it is beneficial as opposed to them waiting until their last year of study.

Several strategies were shared as to how to engage students in earlier years of study with research:

- One such strategy a member noted was that in biology they noticed that students were interested in research in year 2 and so they taught students how to do research proposals. The importance of incorporating research into teaching was discussed and putting research ideas into their minds early.
- Field schools for senior students was mentioned as another good way to bring research to students and allow students to engage more with faculty. Opportunities such as these are low risk and allow a larger number of students have access to the research experience. Courses or field schools allow for many more students to have a good research experience.
- Another strategy suggested to encourage research is to include a bonus assignment for the students to volunteer for an outside community organization, or work for 5-10 hours in a UFV lab on a volunteer basis as a start for research. No funding is required for such experiences.
- In Kinesiology, a faculty member tells her students about her research and that they are welcome to assist in the lab. There is a calendar where students can sign up to assist in the lab and no huge commitment is needed. This opens the door for them and then in third or fourth year they can do more and take on a more formal RA role if interested.
- The Criminology department hold an orientation for all incoming first year students which includes telling them about all ongoing research. Criminology has a mandatory research methods class which exposes them to research. The faculty try to introduce them to roles that they as students can do regarding research. Participating in research at any level is part of a good education but currently they are not having a good uptake, may be due to COVID-19.
- Garry Fehr's strategy of sharing his research and education journey with his classes was brought up as a good way to help students relate and begin their research experience.
- A faculty member shared that she ensures all her students complete the TCPS2 tutorial before they help her in the lab. Depending on the subject matter, it was suggested that getting students involved early in ethics was important.

Jerri-Lynne noted that the research office will work on messaging research to students but know faculty have the most impact on students and their ability to do research.

It was also mentioned that faculty need to ask themselves if everyone is being included in the research – push the EDI in research participant realm.

2.2 Introduction of the new Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) – Keith Carlson

Keith Carlson shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining all the different funding opportunities being offered by PARC. Keith also requested that people please visit the [website](#) to find out about details on funding and current activities. The Vanderpol family has donated funds to help fund initiatives for new activities, related to peace and reconciliation.

Funding application deadlines are last day of every month until the funding is gone.

2.3 RAC Sub-committee needed to assist on the Publication Celebration series

Faculty micro-lectures are cancelled for 2021. Names for faculty to be judges at student research day will be needed. Please contact the research office by February to volunteer to be a judge.

2.4 Research Excellence Awards

Garry announced that the call for nominations for the research excellence award are open and due on January 8, 2020. Information for REA can be found here:

<https://www.ufv.ca/secretariat/awards/faculty-excellence-awards/research-excellence-award/>. Please do not hesitate to contact Garry if you have any questions.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

3.1 Research Office Report – Jerri-Lynne Cameron

3.2 Human Research Ethics Board Report – James Bedard

3.3 Teaching and Learning Advisory Council Report – Claire Hay

Claire Hay mentioned that an online task force chaired by Maureen Wideman has sent out a survey to faculty, please complete as soon as possible. The call has been put out for teaching excellence award nominations and Continuing Education faculty are now eligible if they have more than 2 years teaching experience at UFV. Please view the newsletter on our [website](#).

3.4 Senate Research Committee Report – Shelley Canning

4. DISCUSSION:

It was suggested to talk about having a research forum at a RAC meeting the following year, especially since there will be no micro-lectures in 2021.

5. ADJOURNMENT – 2:37 pm

Joanna Sheppard/ Gillian Hatfield

Next meeting: January 14, 2020, 1:30 pm, BlueJeans.