

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL AGENDA
MAY 14, 2026 | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm | Teams

Welcome and Introductions

- 1. Items for Adoption**
 - 1.1 Agenda: May 14, 2026**
 - 1.2 Minutes: March 19, 2026**

- 2. Business**
 - 2.1 Vote new chair and vice chair positions**

- 3. Discussion**
 - 3.1 Reflection on RAC - What members enjoyed this year and topic suggestions for next year**
 - 3.2 Research [webpage](#) feedback – what information is needed and what content is hard to find**
 - 3.3 Requesting feedback on SoTL Opportunities for the coming year – Victoria Surtees**
 - 3.4 Serving on Tri-Council Review Committees – Amanda Wurz**

- 4. Reports**
 - 4.1 Research Office report – see attached**
 - 4.2 Human Research Ethics Board report – no report**
 - 4.3 Teaching and Learning Advisory Council report – see attached**
 - 4.4 Senate Research Committee report – see below**
The SRC recently met and nominated a chair for the coming term.

- 5. Roundtable Discussion (time permitting)**

- 6. Information Items**
 - 6.1 Congratulations to Dr. Jelena Brcic, winner of the 2026 Faculty Research Excellence Award**
 - 6.2 ROMEO is being replaced with Endpoint IQ in 2027**
 - 6.3 Research funding opportunities on our [webpage](#)**
 - 6.4 Tri-Council Strategy to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada – See as separate attachment and link below**
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2026/crsh-sshrc/Iu4-408-2026-eng.pdf

- 7. Adjournment:**
 - 7.1 Next meeting: Sept 17, 2026, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm**

Please see the [Research Office website](#) for more information on events and funding opportunities.

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 19, 2026 | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm | Teams

Present: Cynthia Thomson, Ash Lalani, Ronald Adjekum, Shawn Geniole, Trevor Beugeling, Janelle Sztuhar, Joanne Robertson, Amanda Wurz, Stefania Pizzirani, Wade Deisman, Cindy Jardine, Lauren Erland, Harley Gordon, Kathleen Rodgers, Tetsuomi Anzai, Chris Schinckus, Ian Affleck, Ismail El Sayad, Keith Carlson

Recorder: Natalie Vanderleest

Regrets: Albert Kim, Irwin Cohen, Jacob Spooner, Lenore Newman, Shelley Canning, Janice Nagtegaal, Kim Daley, Leona Oakman, Yvette Fairweather, Allyson Jule, Anastasia Anderson, Barnabe Assogba, Brianna Strumm, Homa Rafiei Milajerdi, Jon Thomas, Juliana Schneider Medeiros, Lara Duke, Luisa Giles, Martha Dow, Martin Warkentin, Masud Khawaja, Olav Lian, Paul Fontaine, Andrea Sator, Zina Lee, Nikki Martyn, Nipuni Jayetileke, Marlie Murphy, Simon Lambek, Geetanjali Gill, Christine Elsey, Mariano Mapilli, Opeyemi Adesina, Rita Dhungel, Victoria Surtees, Lin Long, Noah Schwartz, Tracy RyderGlass, Melinda Saretzky, Garry Fehr

Welcome and Introductions

1. Items for Adoption

Agenda: March 19, 2026

1:33 **1.1** MOTION: THAT the agenda for the March 19, 2026, RAC meeting be approved as presented.

Joanne Robertson, Lauren Erland

CARRIED

Minutes: Jan. 15, 2026

1:34 **1.2** MOTION: THAT the minutes from the Jan. 15, 2025, RAC meeting be approved as presented.

Kathleen Rodgers, Trevor Beugeling

CARRIED

2. Business

1:34 **2.1** **Review Terms of Reference**

- Cynthia facilitated the review of the Terms of Reference that was attached in the Teams meeting invite.
- Terms of Reference attached to minutes.

MOTION: THAT the Terms of Reference be approved as presented, with no changes.

Trevor Beugeling, Stefania Pizzirani

CARRIED

- Was discussed that Thursdays are difficult to attend as other committees, such as HREB, GSC, ATS Faculty Council are also on Thursdays. Is there potential to move RAC to another day? Cynthia will take this back to the Research Office to discuss.

3. Discussion

- 1:44 **3.1 Overview on grants (internal and external), contracts, intellectual property, research data management, research security, and peer review process discussion - Ash**
- We have 3 internal grants. The SSHRC Explore, Faculty/Student Research and Scholarly Activity Fund, and ROSA.
 - The Research Office has funding for students through the Student Presentation Grants and Student Led Research Grant. Please check the website for further details.
 - There are different types of contracts and partnerships. Please speak with Ash prior to engaging with a partner to discuss overhead, intellectual property, NDAs, and other processes.
 - Tri-Agency is adding the requirement of including research data management plans with proposals for more streams of funding. If there are any questions about data management plans, the email address is rdm@ufv.ca.
 - Webpage: <https://libguides.ufv.ca/ResearchDataManagement>
 - Research Security continues to be a priority for Canada.
 - STRAC Policy for Research Security
<https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-res...>
Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern
 - Workshops for researchers on research security
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrct/cntr-trrrsm/cntr-prlfrtn/sfgrdng-scnc/sfgrdng-scnc-wrk...>
Safeguarding Science
 - Peer review process discussion as a group resulted in the following suggestions:
 - Having other disciplines review rather than the same department/research area due to the small amount of people conducting research within a certain area.
 - A shared portal or database of successful research proposals to facilitate sharing of best practices.
 - The database could have an email listed so you can reach out to them for their expertise that also included discipline and methodological expertise that are willing to serve as a reviewer.
 - Suggested to have a senior faculty mentor. There is a list of faculty mentors at <https://www.ufv.ca/research/faculty/mentors/>

4. Reports

- 2:30 **4.1 Research Office report – see attached**
- 4.2 Human Research Ethics Board report – no report**
- 4.3 Teaching and Learning Advisory Council report – see attached**
- 2:30 **4.4 Senate Research Committee report – Shawn Geniole**
The Research Excellence Award Committee has evaluated nominees and presented its recommendation to the Senate Awards and Honors Committee (SAHC).

5. Roundtable Discussion (time permitting)

- Lauren Erland started working with Elder College through the Berri Centre. They have been coming every morning for a week to 2 weeks helping out. Lauren

wanted to let everyone know how well it is going to hopefully work with Elder College to open it up to other groups or programs. Elder College is based in Chilliwack, but some members come from Abbotsford. Lauren registered them through Elder College in the same place they register for courses. There was a waitlist. They are not linked to credentialling. Some are keen for recognition and others it is only for enjoyment.

- Joanne has a few suggestions for a future meeting topics. They are in the process of reviewing Master of Educational Leadership program in School of Ed.
 - A suggestion from the faculty is that they would like to see a Graduate Student Research Day. Could they do a day where it was open to both graduate and undergraduate students or a day for just graduate students? It would be nice to talk to graduate students. A Graduate Research Day would need to be after hours, an evening or a Saturday. Many are in Social Work and are professionals, so we need to consider that. These students have other needs.
 - Also looking at a more decolonized Indigenous arts-based approaches to research methods and structure or research design. We are still seeing very basic approaches to both quantitative and qualitative research. The students becoming more interested oral and arts-based approaches. There are some people that Joanne knows that could lend their expertise to this.

6. Information Items

- 6.1 NSERC USRA applications due March 25, 2026**
- 6.2 Student Research Day – April 1, 2026, 10am-3pm in Evered Hall. Still looking for faculty judges. Sign up [online](#) by Monday, March 23.**
- 6.3 URE nominations deadline is Friday April 24, 2026**
- 6.4 Research that is requiring ethics approval for the summer should be submitted by the May deadline. For more information on deadlines and timeframes please visit our website: <https://www.ufv.ca/research-ethics/apply/>.**
- 6.5 If you have a course involving human participant research for the fall, please submit the application for course-based ethics approval by June 1. Please see course-based research eligibility requirements here: <https://www.ufv.ca/research-ethics/guidance-notes/course-based-research/#d.en.1028567>**
- 6.6 Chair and Vice Chair positions available September 2026**

7. Adjournment: 2:50pm

MOTION to Adjourn – Stefania Pizzirani, Joanne Robertson

7.1 Next meeting: May 14, 2026, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Please see the [Research Office website](#) for more information on events and funding opportunities.

Research Advisory Council Terms of Reference

1. Mandate

The Research Advisory Council (RAC) provides an interdisciplinary forum for discussion of ideas, issues related to research. RAC advocates for research activity within the context of a teaching university. RAC provides an opportunity for research-oriented faculty members at UFV to come together to discuss topics related to research, to support research-based initiatives, and to stimulate discussion and profile research activity at UFV. RAC will provide advice and support to the AVP of Research & Graduate Studies and other UFV decision-making bodies such as the Senate Research Committee.

The RAC shall:

1. Initiate and plan activities and events related to research, to inspire and facilitate institution wide discussion. These activities and events may take place within RAC meetings themselves.
2. Provide a forum where new research, scholarly initiatives, good research practice, and new ideas can be discussed and reviewed in an inter-disciplinary context.
3. Provide a space in which research-minded faculty can network and have a collective voice.
4. Support the visibility of research by profiling and disseminating information about research activities and good research practice.
5. Support and advocate for student research opportunities.
6. Act as a resource for faculty regarding the scholarship of teaching and learning.
7. Act as a resource to new faculty to support them in the development of their research and scholarly activity.
8. Consult with and advise program areas on matters related to research and the integration of research and teaching.
9. Establish committees, as required, to address and/or advise on emerging issues as they relate to research, creative, and scholarly activities.
10. Consider and review UFV's strategic, strategic research, and education plans, policies and practices to assess the implications for research and the integration of research and teaching. These may be requested by the AVP of Research & Graduate Studies, Senate Research Committee (SRC), or other UFV bodies. Advice may be sought on the content, interpretation, and implementation of plans and policies.
11. Provide liaison to related groups such as the Teaching and Learning Advisory Council (TLAC) and others.

2. Membership

Voting Members:

- Two faculty members who are researchers, delegated by each faculty: Arts (two from Social Sciences and two from Humanities), Education, Community, and Human Development, Applied and Technical Studies, Health Sciences, Science, and Business and Computing.

- University Librarian or designate
- Chair or Vice-Chair of the UFV Human Research Ethics Board
- Directors/leaders of each UFV research institute, centre, or lab
- Research Chairs

Non-Voting Members:

Other senior leadership members or their designates are welcome to attend

Provost and Vice-President, Academic

AVP of Research & Graduate Studies

Dean, College of Arts

Dean, Business and Computing

Dean, Science

Dean, Health Sciences

Dean, Education, Community, and Human Development

Dean, Applied and Technical Studies

Director of Research Services & Industry Engagement

AVP, Teaching & Learning

3. Chair

Every second year at its regular May meeting, the RAC will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from its membership. The selection of the Chair and Vice-Chair may be deferred at the request of RAC to September. In the event of an election, voting may occur by ballot.

The Chair (or designate) is a member of the Senate Research Committee ex-officio. The Chair is responsible for liaison with the Research Office. In their absence, the Vice-Chair will provide liaison or attend meetings.

4. Regular Meetings

The Council shall hold meetings in September, November, January, March and May each year. The Council may also meet at the call of the Chair, or at the request of the AVP of Research & Graduate Studies, or the Chair of the Senate Research Committee. In the event that a vote must be taken on specific recommendations made to the AVP or other UFV decision-making body, a quorum shall be 50% plus 1 of voting members.

All meetings of the Council are open to all UFV faculty, staff and students wishing to attend.

5. Proceedings

A summary record of the proceedings and recommendations of the Council will be produced and circulated by the Research Office Assistant in Research & Graduate Studies.

Research Advisory Council 2025-26

Faculty Area	Attending Representative	Alternate
VOTING MEMBERS		
Arts - Humanities		
Arts - Humanities	Paul Fontaine	
Arts - Social Sciences	Shawn Geniole	Simon Lambek
Arts - Social Sciences	Kathleen Rodgers	Noah Schwartz (chair)
Science	Mariano Mapili	
Science	Harley Gordon	
Health Sciences	Cynthia Thomson (vice chair)	Amanda Wurz
Health Sciences	Luisa Giles	
Business & Computing	Opeyemi Adesina	Ismail El Sayad
Business & Computing	Masud Khawaja	
Education, Community and Human Development	Rita Dhungel	Andrea Sator
Education, Community and Human Development	Barnabe Assogba	
Applied and Technical Studies		
Applied and Technical Studies	Trevor Beugeling	
University Librarian or designate	Janelle Sztuhar	Martin Warkentin
Chair or Vice-Chair of the UFV Human Research Ethics Board	Joanne Robertson	Zina Lee
CENTRES & LABS - voting members		
Food and Agriculture Institute	Lenore Newman	Stefania Pizzirani
South Asian Studies Institute		
Community Health and Social Innovation Hub	Martha Dow	
Esposito Family Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Jon Thomas	
Peace and Reconciliation Centre	Keith Carlson	
Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice	Irwin Cohen	
Centre for Education and Research on Aging	Shelley Canning	
Centre for Philosophy for Children	Anastasia Anderson	
Centre for Justice, Equity, & Sustainable Action (JESA)	Brianna Strumm	Geetanjali Gill
BERRi Lab	Lauren Erland	
Luminescence Dating Lab	Olav Lian	
Centre for High Pressure Research/Molecular Modeling Lab	Jacob Spooner	
RESEARCH CHAIRS - voting members		
CRC - Indigenous & Community Engaged History	Keith Carlson	
CRC - Health and Community	Cindy Jardine	
CRC - Berry Horticulture	Lauren Erland	
UFV Research Chair in Food and Agriculture Innovation	Lenore Newman	
BC Regional Chair - Canada India Partnership Development	Jon Thomas	
NON VOTING		Assistants
AVP Research & Graduate Studies	Garry Fehr	
Director, Research Services & Industry Engagement	Ash Lalani	Natalie Vanderleest
Grants Facilitator	Ronald Adjekum	
Assistant, Research & Graduate Studies	Natalie Vanderleest	Recorder
Communications and Events Coordinator	Leona Oakman	
Officer, Ethics & Compliance	Yvette Fairweather	
AVP, Teaching & Learning (Designate)	Victoria Surtees	
Provost & Vice President or designate	Tracy RyderGlass	Melinda Saretzky
Dean, Faculty of Education, Community & Human Development	Allyson Jule	Kim Daley
Associate Dean, Humanities	Tetsuomi Anzai	
Associate Dean, Social Sciences	Wade Deisman	
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences	Lara Duke	Nikki Martyn
Dean, Faculty of Business & Computing	Chris Schinckus	Nipuni Jayetileke
Dean, Faculty of Science	Ian Affleck	Janice Nagtegaal
Dean, Faculty of Applied & Technical Studies	Lin Long	Marlie Murphy
Research Associate PARC	Juliana Schneider Medeiros	
Professor Emeritus	Christine Elsey	
Faculty of Social Science	Albert Kim	
Faculty of Health Science	Homa Rafiei Milajerdi	
Meetings are UFV Week 3, Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:30 pm		
Quorum: >50% with a minimum of 10 voting members		

Office of Research Services RAC Report May 14, 2026

- The NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) have been adjudicated and each awardee and their supervisors have been informed. There were six allocations given out with double the number of applicants received.
- Student Research Day was held on April 1, 2026 where students highlighted their research from various disciplines. Please see the link for list of 2026 Award Winners and event photos information: <https://www.ufv.ca/research/students/student-research-day/>
- We have funding for your students! If you have students that are presenting or would like to conduct student led research under your supervision, please see the link for further details and guidelines <https://www.ufv.ca/research/students/awards-and-funding/>
- NSERC Discovery grant portal is now OPEN. Mandatory non-competitive LOI is due on August 4th with the researcher completing the submission themselves. The research office will receive a list of NOI submissions for UFV by early September and our office will be in contact with you regarding your full submission due in early November with the research office completing a final review and submission. We recommend you start on your NSERC DG full application draft ASAP if you have time over the summer term <https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/funding-opportunity/discovery-grants-program-individual>
- The next SSHRC Connection grant intake will be August 4, 2026. Please contact Ash and Ronald ASAP if you are planning to apply for the next intake and provide a draft proposal for review <https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/en/funding/opportunities/connection-grants.aspx>
- The next SSHRC Partnership Engage grant intake will be June 15, 2026. Please contact Ash and Ronald ASAP if you are planning to apply for the next intake and provide a draft proposal for review <https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/en/funding/opportunities/partnership-engage-grants.aspx>
- For all grants due between September 2026 to December 2026 we recommend you start writing over the summer term if you have time. This will help us to provide you with multiple drafts and revisions prior to the deadline date and also help give you time to incorporate any feedback. Please contact Ash and Ronald to discuss further or if you have any questions.
- For those of you applying for grants that require a Notification of Intent (NOI) or Letter of Intent (LOI) or a Stage 1 application so some form of pre-registration, please contact Ash Lalani ash.lalani@ufv.ca to let her know regardless of if the researcher (applicant) or our office completes the submission so we can guide you through the process.

- For researchers requiring a letter of support either as an applicant or co-applicant please contact Ash Lalani ash.lalani@ufv.ca as soon as possible. Letters of support take time to write especially if there are specific requirements we need to meet on the funders side. Please ensure to give a lot of lead time for this process.
- Any faculty members that are thinking to engage with or engaging with an external partner (company, not-for-profit, municipal government, local businesses etc.) please contact Ash Lalani ash.lalani@ufv.ca as soon as possible to discuss Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA), due diligence on the company, university overhead rate, intellectual property policy and the general process for research contracts.
- If you are interested in pursuing a Mitacs project, kindly check the Open Projects Link for Mitacs and **then please have a discussion with Ash Lalani prior to discuss process before contacting the potential partner.** Here is the open projects link [Open projects | Mitacs](#). Please let Ash Lalani ash.lalani@ufv.ca know if you have any questions.
- **Reminder:** All research grants and contracts must go through our office for a review regardless of who completes the submission to the agency. Please ensure that you are noting the appropriate overhead/indirect costs on the overhead waiver form which can be found online. As per university policy, our overhead rate is 25% unless the funder waives the rate or has a reduction of that rate noted on their website or in their instructions. A UFV overhead waiver form must also be completed if it is less than 25%. For most (but not all) Tri-Agency grants there is no overhead. If you have any questions, please contact Ash Lalani.
- **Reminder: If any faculty members are working on any grants (Tri-Agency or other funding organizations) please contact Dr. Ronald Adjekum grants facilitator at ronald.adjekum@ufv.ca with a cc to ash.lalani@ufv.ca ASAP** to help review your application and provide guidance on next steps, review, submission process etc. We have an internal process for **at least 14 business days prior to the deadline date.** This also includes those working as co-applicants with other institutions that may require a letter of support. Our office would like to help you as much as possible with your grant applications by providing numerous iterations so the farther in advance you can provide us with a draft, the better we can help.
- **Reminder:** The Government of Canada has come out with a policy relating to Sensitive Technology and Research Affiliations of Concern (STRAC) in order for researchers and university administrators to understand best practices to identify and mitigate research security threats, pursue and maintain safe research partnerships, maintain institutional reputation of a safe research organization and protect valuable research, data or potentially patentable property. STRAC policy info is located [here](#). Please contact Ash Lalani at ash.lalani@ufv.ca if you wish to discuss your own research security concerns relating to your proposed research topic or a foreign partner.
- **Reminder:** Mitacs programs are a great way to work with an external partner and also provide your students will valuable training skills. Mitacs programs do require a 50%

match from an external partner which they will then match. A list of possible projects/partners will be advertised in the next research newsletter. More information about Mitacs programs can be found [here](#). Please contact Ash Lalani at ash.lalani@ufv.ca if you wish to apply.

- **Reminder:** Mitacs also has an Indigenous Pathways Stream which allows for a smaller contribution of 25% from the partner for applications that have an Indigenous partner organization and/or an intern who is Indigenous. Further information can be found [here](#). Please contact Ash Lalani at ash.lalani@ufv.ca if you wish to apply.
- **Reminder:** The Research Office and Library at UFV are currently working on some consolidated information to help researchers with their research data management plans (RDM plans). Currently there are only selected programs that require a RDM plan that would need to be completed prior to submission. They can be found [here](#). For further information regarding UFV Data Management information please visit the UFV library website located [here](#). **NEW: We now have a general mailbox to direct any research data management inquiries to, please e-mail rdm@ufv.ca**
- **Reminder:** Major grant holders may be eligible to receive one teaching release if they are the Primary Investigator (PI) for **a major grant from only select NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR grants**. Co-principal investigators and co-applicants are not eligible. Please see the major grant holders website for more information <https://www.ufv.ca/research/faculty/major-grant-holders/>
- **Reminder:** If you are going to be working on a NSERC Alliance Advantage grant or any other partnered research grant, please ensure that you check in with the Director, Research Services & Industry Engagement to discuss if there are any partnership/security risk concerns as these are partnered research grants. NSERC Alliance grants have a rolling deadline unless specified as a special call with a hard deadline. Please contact Ash Lalani for further information if you are interested to apply.
- **Reminder:** As previously mentioned, our office has a grants facilitator, Dr. Ronald Adjekum. Please continue to direct all research grants inquiries at the pre-award stage to both Ronald and Ash Lalani, Director Research Services & Industry Engagement and research contracts/partnerships inquiries to Ash Lalani. For all post-award inquiries please contact Clarrie Lam and Ryan Coreau at rgspostaward@ufv.ca

TLAC Report

- **ConnectED 2026:** The TLC hosted an incredible day of learning and building connections on April 29, 2026. With over 30 concurrent sessions and 200-plus attendees/presenters, this year's conference broke records. Dr. Jo-ann Archibald, Q'um Q'um Xiiem—UFV Chancellor and Officer of the Order of Canada – was the inspiring keynote speaker who called us to consider Indigenous Storywork as a framework for how we educate the next generation of storyworkers. We look forward to seeing you all at ConnectED 2027 on April 28th, 2027.
- **AI in Teaching and Learning:**
Anna Griffith and David Thompson have created a Beginner AI Skills Workshop series. See dates below:
In-person | May 13 & 20, 2026 | 2-4pm in G124
A hands-on workshop series focused on building foundational AI literacy, strengthening prompting skills, and applying AI effectively in your workflow. The workshops are scaffolded but can be taken separately if you have a good grasp of the basics. Requirements: Laptop plus a free OpenAI account and access to.
- **Designing for the Future – Course (Re)Design Intensive Summer 2026 Microcredential:**
The Course (Re)Design Intensive (CRDI) container is a recognized professional learning opportunity that demonstrates commitment to innovation in teaching practice and pedagogy. Anna Griffith and Claire Hay are offering this CRDI as a microcredential, designed as a space of renewal and a community for meaningful curriculum development.
In Person: May 25-29, 2026 - CEP (room TBA); June 1-5, 2026 – Abbotsford G124
- **Open Education Strategy Launch and Celebration** – Congratulations to Claire Hay and Janelle Szuhtar on a successful launch of the Open Education at UFV: A Strategy for the Future. See photos of the event here:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ufv/55141332972/in/photostream/>
Report: [Open Education Strategy at UFV](#)