

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 credentialing. 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.