

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL AGENDA

MAY 14, 2026 | 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm | Teams

Present: Noah Schwartz, Cynthia Thomson, Garry Fehr, Ash Lalani, Victoria Surtees, Shawn Geniole, Opeyemi Adesina, Trevor Beugeling, Janelle Sztuhar, Amanda Wurz, Wade Deisman, Rita Dhungel, Keith Carlson, Allyson Jule, Christine Elsey, Ian Affleck

Recorder: Natalie Vanderleest

Regrets: Albert Kim, Irwin Cohen, Jacob Spooner, Lenore Newman, Shelley Canning, Janice Nagtegaal, Kim Daley, Leona Oakman, Yvette Fairweather, Anastasia Anderson, Barnabe Assogba, Brianna Strumm, Chris Schinckus, Harley Gordon, Homa Rafiei Milajerdi, Jon Thomas, Juliana Schneider Medeiros, Lara Duke, Lauren Erland, Luisa Giles, Martha Dow, Martin Warkentin, Masud Khawaja, Olav Lian, Paul Fontaine, Andrea Sator, Zina Lee, Nikki Martyn, Nipuni Jayetileke, Marlie Murphy, Simon Lambek, Ismail El Sayad, Geetanjali Gill, Kathleen Rodgers, Mariano Mapili, Joanne Robertson, Stefania Pizzirani, Cindy Jardine, Ronald Adjekum, Tracy RyderGlass, Melinda Saretzky, Tetsuomi Anzai, Lin Long

Welcome and Introductions

1. Items for Adoption

Agenda: May 14, 2026

1:32 1.1 MOTION: THAT the agenda for the May 14, 2026, RAC meeting be approved as presented with changing 3.3 to after 1.2
Trevor Beugeling, Rita Dhungel CARRIED

Minutes: March 19, 2026

1.2 MOTION: THAT the minutes from the March. 19, 2026, RAC meeting be approved as presented.
Cynthia Thomson, Janelle Sztuhar CARRIED

2. Business

1:36 2.1 **Vote new chair and vice chair positions**
Rita Dhungel was the only nominee for the role of chair for the RAC for a two-year term.
MOTION: THAT Rita Dhungel be chair for the RAC 2026-2028 term.
Noah, Schwartz, Garry Fehr CARRIED

Opeyemi Adesina was the only nominee for the role of vice chair for the RAC for a two-year term.
MOTION: THAT Opeyemi Adesina be vice chair for the RAC 2026-2028 term.
Noah Schwartz, Cynthia Thomson CARRIED

3. Discussion

1:40 3.1 **Reflection on RAC - What members enjoyed this year and topic suggestions for next year**

Enjoyed:

- Artificial Intelligence trends and opportunities
- Knowledge translation was liked
- Enjoyed all sessions and workshops
- Roundtable is appreciated – how do we encourage more sharing?

Suggested for next year:

- More on knowledge translation
- Library could present on topics such as repository and HarvistIR
- COIL program leading to research opportunities – Victoria could do a session

1:45 **3.2 Research [webpage](#) feedback – what information is needed and what content is hard to find**

- Faculty section needs re-organizing
- Email any feedback to the Research Office

1:35 **3.3 Requesting feedback on SoTL Opportunities for the coming year – Victoria Surtees**

- Victoria is exploring ways to support SoTL in the Teaching and Learning Centre. She is looking for suggestions as she puts together writing groups and collaborative research groups on what types of supports you would need in those projects. You can reach out to Victoria with your suggestions, thoughts and inputs.

1:47 **3.4 Serving on Tri-Council Review Committees – Amanda Wurz**

- Garry introduced Amanda Wurz and the Commendation Letter she received as an outstanding peer reviewer.
- Amanda discussed her experience on the Tri-Council review committees and how it was a great opportunity.
- Christine Elsey shared in the chat that she was a reviewer for a SSHRC group grant and found it an interesting and rich experience, although it was time consuming. She recommends the experience.
- Garry mentioned another faculty member served on NSERC Discovery Grant review committees and then received an extra year of funding with her grant. Amanda can't confirm or deny if there are similarities for SSHRC but has heard from mentors that similar things have happened with CHIR.

4. Reports

1:53 **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 1:53

- Rita shared that the Ethics Review Committee had their annual retreat 2 weeks ago at the Mission campus. She expressed how great it was to meet all the committee members in

person for the first time. There was lots of learning from each other while reviewing research ethics applications.

- Cynthia was wondering about article publishing as she recently learned we cannot submit to The Conversation. Some suggestions were IRPP Publish, <https://sirc.ca>, even though it is not specific to the medical field, and The Globe and Mail. Garry will look into this and talk to Kenley in the library.
- Cynthia is looking for an RA. She had a posting and was looking for a psychology student but hasn't been successful. If anyone knows of anyone and they have the right skillset, she would be interested to meet them.
- Amanda also wants to hire a few RA assistants. She suggested sharing an RA. If someone is looking for a part time because of funds and can share the RA so the student can get full time work, then everyone could benefit.

6. Information Items

- 1:59 **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-sshrclu4-408-2026-eng.pdf

7. Adjournment: 2:04pm

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.