

**University of Windsor
Senate**

5.10: **Report of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation**

Item for: **Information**

Forwarded by: **Shanthi Johnson**

- Research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation are critical to the impact, influence, and reputation of the University locally and globally. The research and innovation ecosystem directly impacts our ability to recruit and retain undergraduate and graduate students and build a robust education and training capacity pipeline for our current and future needs.
 - The functional areas covered by the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) include: Research and Innovation Services (pre/post grant/awards management), Research Partnerships, Research Integrity (Animal Care, Research Ethics, and Research Safety), senate approved University research centres and institutes and EPICentre, and strategic institutional initiatives.
 - Our office has a firm commitment to inspire and advance inclusive research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation, underpinned by excellence. We will be developing a dynamic research and Innovation ecosystem that is aligned with the University's institutional strategic plan - *Aspire: Together for Tomorrow*. We aim to engage our community, creating strong, meaningful collaborations, actively involving both our internal and external stakeholders.

Strengthening the University's Internal Research and Innovation Ecosystem

- In October 2023, the OVPRI began investing in reflections and actions to address the lessons learned from the research and innovation administration and services review conducted last spring. An implementation plan is being developed by our internal team working with other partners on campus. Implementation will be ongoing over the coming months.
- The Associate Deans Research Committee (ADRC), comprising Associate Deans Research or their equivalent from each faculty, as well as representatives from Leddy Library and the OVPRI, have developed a draft terms of reference (TOR) for the Senate Research and Innovation Advisory Committee (SRIAC), which will serve as an advisory body to both Senate and the VPRI on matters related to research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation. As outlined in the draft TOR for the SRIAC, the committee will serve to:
 - Empower bold, impactful, and engaged research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation across disciplines in alignment with the University strategic plan by:
 - Advising on, supporting the alignment of, and championing research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation initiatives and opportunities across campus; and
 - Providing advice to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI) and Senate on strategic activities and initiatives that fall within the mandate of Senate.
- The draft TOR for the SRIAC is being sent to the Senate Governance Committee for review and approval.

Strategic Institutional Initiatives

- The OVPRI is moving forward with the launch of the Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) in Health Disparities and Public Health (FAHSS), Health Biostatistics (HK), and Public and Environmental Health (Science) that were announced in May 2023. The OVPRI has developed comprehensive timelines and processes for the searches to run concurrently and is in the process of striking the committee who will conduct them. Search processes and procedures will be consistent with the requirements of the CRC Secretariat and the University of Windsor. Together, the three CRCs hired will complement and bolster the collaborative partnership the University has

developed with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU). We are also using this opportunity to learn, streamline and optimize processes.

Royal Society of Canada Celebration

- From November 15-18, 2023, the Royal Society of Canada will host its annual Celebration of Excellence and Engagement in Waterloo, Ontario. During this year's celebrations, Dr. Christina Semeniuk will be inducted as a Member of the Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists in recognition of the significance of her contributions to her field. Election as a Member of the College is among the most prestigious honours conferred upon Canadian researchers in the earlier phases of their career
- Additionally, recent Law LLM graduate, Esentsei Staats-Pangowish, will be awarded the Royal Society of Canada Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize. The Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize is presented annually to a graduating law student in each of the law schools in Canada who is most likely to positively influence equity and social justice in Canada or globally upon graduation. Estentsei is the first Indigenous graduate of Windsor's LLM program.

Research Security

- Canada is taking a strong position on safeguarding research within our world-class research community. As such, both federal and provincial governments have implemented research security requirements to safeguard Canadian research particularly for selected NSERC grant programs. Guidance from government has been evolving rapidly.
- We are working to create a coordinated approach to addressing research security on campus at the University of Windsor. With special funding from the federal government, the OVPRI is in the final stages of hiring a Research Security Coordinator who will support the University of Windsor research community in meeting rapidly evolving requirements, represent the University in national and provincial communities of practice, and work alongside our faculty members and faculties to mitigate concerns and create opportunities.

Partnerships and Engagement

- The VPRI continues to forge strong relationships internally and externally through meetings with the Deans, Associate Deans Researcher, and researchers and their teams, as well as visiting research laboratories across campus. In October, the OVPRI hosted and engaged in a number of stakeholders meetings and visits in support of key University of Windsor strategic research and innovation initiatives, including hosting a visit from Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) and FACIT leadership. The full day visit featured an inter-organizational exchange of information on funding programs and commercialization opportunities and leading cancer research programs at the University of Windsor. Regular meetings with WECHU, Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH), and other stakeholders to develop collaborative research partnerships in health continued through the month.
- The OVPRI has also recently finalized a partnership agreement with Zekelman Industries and Z-Modular that will provide \$1 million over five years to support Dr. Sreekanta Das from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering as the Chair of the Z-Modular Centre for Innovation and Sustainable Construction. This contribution will be leveraged to significantly advance research and innovation in sustainable housing and construction that will be of significant benefit regionally, nationally, and internationally for years to come.