



GFC Standing Committee Report

Committee: GFC Research Planning Committee

For the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

The GFC Research Planning Committee (RPC) is the primary advisory body to the Vice-President (Research) and is consulted on issues within the research and innovation portfolio. The following is a report on the committee's activities as well as those of its Review Panels for the 2019-20 academic year.

1.0 GFC RESEARCH PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members

	Representative	Term
Committee Chair	Erasmus Okine	ongoing
Associate Vice-President (Research) or designate*	Jennifer Copeland / Jackie Rice	Ex-officio
Provost & Vice-President (Academic) or designate	Josie Mills	Ex-officio
Arts & Science, Humanities	Inge Genee	30-Jun-21
Arts & Science, Sciences	Dan Johnson	30-Jun-20
Arts & Science, Social Sciences	Michelle Hogue	30-Jun-20
Dhillon School of Business	Brad Olson	30-Jun-21
Education	David Slomp	30-Jun-21
Fine Arts	Aaron Taylor	30-Jun-20
School of Graduate Studies	Borries Demeler	30-Jun-20
Health Sciences	Cheryl Currie	30-Jun-20
Liberal Education	Jon Doan	30-Jun-21

* Jennifer Copeland served on the committee in her capacity as Acting Associate Vice-President (Research) from July 2019 to January 2020. Jackie Rice joined the committee upon her appointment as Associate Vice-President (Research)/Dean, School of Graduate Studies on March 1, 2020.

Meetings

September 12, 2019 (in person)

J. Copeland provided an overview of the committee including its position within the GFC reporting structure, the restructuring of its roles and responsibilities, as well the review panels that report to it.

Business conducted at the meeting included:

- Approving a name change for the Centre for Socially Responsible Marketing to the Institute for Consumer and Social Well-being,
- Setting the value of the University of Lethbridge Travel Fund for 2019/20,
- Reviewing proposed changes to the Centres and Institutes Policy and the rationale behind the proposed changes, and
- Receiving the reports from the Animal Welfare and Human Subject Research Committees.

October 31, 2019 (in person)

The committee met to discuss the revision of the Strategic Research Plan and next steps for campus consultations.

April 21, 2020 (via email)

The committee set the value of the University of Lethbridge Travel Fund for 2020/21.

2.0 CENTERS AND INSTITUTES REVIEW PANEL

The Review Panel's mandate is to make recommendations to the Vice-President (Research) on the establishment and renewal of University Centres/Institutes.

The Review Panel did not convene in 2019/20.

3.0 RESEARCH CHAIRS REVIEW PANEL

The Review Panel's mandate is to make recommendations to the Vice-President (Research) on new and renewal nominations for the Board of Governors Research Chair (BoGRC) program.

Members

Chaired by the Associate Vice-President (Research)/Dean, School of Graduate Studies, the review panel was comprised of four senior faculty members broadly representing the research disciplines of the applicants. The committee members were as follows:

- Roy Golsteyn (Natural Sciences),
- Suzanne Lenon (Social Sciences and Humanities),
- Deanna Oye (Fine Arts), and
- David Slomp (Education)

Meetings

February 25, 2020 (in person)

The review panel met for an orientation of the 2019/20 BoGRC competition, which included a discussion on the role of the committee and an overview of the BoGRC program and the number of chairs available in the current call. The Vice-President (Research) discussed current Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives. Committee members were also asked to complete the Unconscious Bias training module developed by Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat.

March 31, 2020 (via video conference)

The review panel reviewed applications from two Tier 1 Chairholders whose terms were ending and had requested reappointment. Both applications received a positive recommendation. The review panel adjudicated the current call. The committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each application and recommended 3 appointments effective July 1, 2021.

4.0 INTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING REVIEW PANELS

The following review panels review and adjudicate research proposals for internal research funding competitions and distribute funds for research grants and undergraduate student stipends and awards.

4.1 ALBERTA INNOVATES SUMMER STUDENTSHIPS

Members

The Review Panel was comprised of the following members from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers:

- Bryan Kolb (Neuroscience),
- Tracy Oosterbroek (Health Sciences), and
- Jon Doan (Physical Education & Kinesiology).

Meetings

March 11, 2020 (in person)

The review panel reviewed applications from Alberta Innovates Summer Studentships (AISS) that were received for the 2020 competition. The review panel ranked the 17 applications from highest to lowest using the Pro-Grid system. Awards were offered to the top 11 students.

4.2 CHINOOK RESEARCH AWARDS

Members

The Review Panel was comprised of the following members from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers:

- Michelle Hogue (First Nations Transition Program)
- Craig Coburn (Geography)
- Masami Tatsuno (Neuroscience)
- Gongbing Shan (Kinesiology and Physical Education)
- Nehal Thakor (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- Fangfang Li (Psychology)
- Maura Hanrahan (Geography)
- Yale Belanger (Political Science)
- Ivan Townshend (Geography)

Meetings

March 3, 2020 (in person)

The Grants Facilitator chaired this meeting and went over expectations for review of applications and to divide into groups of three for application review.

Recipient selection (via email)

The review panel adjudicated 78 applications with each member reading 26 applications. Final rankings were discussed via email due to COVID-19. The review panel offered 20 awards valued at \$8,730 (comprised of the Chinook Stipend, and top ups from the supervisor and the University operating funds).

4.3 COMMUNITY OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES (CREDO)

Reviewers

The Grants Facilitator (SSHRC) solicited two reviews from U of L faculty members with expertise in a similar field to provide feedback and rankings on 1-2 of the 5 applications. Reviewers included:

- Kristine Alexander (History)
- Debra Basil (Dhillon School of Business)
- Jon Doan (Kinesiology and Physical Education)
- Denton Fredrickson (Art)
- Monique Giroux (Music)
- Erika Hasebe-Ludt (Education)
- Amy Shaw (History)

Meetings

February 25, 2020

The rankings and comments provided by the SOURCE Peer Reviewers were assembled and reviewed by the Grants Facilitator and AVPR. Two awards (valued at \$15,000 each) were given out relative to the average rankings of applications and fit with the mandate of the funding opportunity.

4.4 UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE RESEARCH FUND (ULRF) REVIEW PANEL

Members

Chaired by the Associate Vice-President (Research)/Dean, School of Graduate Studies, application reviewers were selected from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers based on their expressed levels of expertise and lack of conflict of interest for particular applications. The following SOURCE Reviewers provided reviews on one or more applications:

- Glenda Bonifacio (Women and Gender Studies),
- Yllias Chali (Math & Computer Science),
- Jennifer Copeland (Physical Education & Kinesiology),
- Dagmar Dahle (Fine Arts),
- Anne Dymond, Anne (Fine Arts),
- David Euston (Neuroscience),
- Cam Goater (Biological Sciences),
- Roy Golsteyn (Biological Sciences),
- Bonnie Lee (Health Sciences),
- Suzanne Lenon (Women and Gender Studies),
- Bruce MacKay (Liberal Education),
- Dawn McBride (Education),
- Trushar Patel (Chemistry and Biochemistry),
- Sergio Pellis (Neuroscience),
- Behnam Seyed-Mahmoud (Physics and Astronomy),
- Matthew Tata (Neuroscience),
- Aaron Taylor (Fine Arts),
- Kenneth Vos (Physics and Astronomy),
- Robert Williams (Health Sciences), and
- Athan Zovoilis (Chemistry and Biochemistry).

Meetings

No meetings occurred for this panel.

In past competitions, two external reviews were solicited for each of the ULRF applications. However, in the 2019/20 competition, there were sufficient funds to support all of the applications received if they were deemed meritorious by the SOURCE Reviewers. In lieu of external reviews, we solicited internal reviews from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers. If the reviews received from the SOURCE members were unanimously positive as reviewed by the Chair of the panel, the application was funded. There were two applications that were asked to revise and resubmit the applications based on the comments received by the SOURCE reviewers. The Chair deemed the concerns and suggested revisions were satisfied and those two applications were subsequently funded. Overall, fifteen applications were funded at a total of \$107,539.47.

4.5 LIFE AND CLIMATE AWARDS

Members

The Review Panel was comprised of the following members from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers:

- Ian Wishaw (Neuroscience),
- Ivan Townshend (Geography and Environment), and
- Richard Lee-Thai (Undergraduate Student nominated by the Students' Union).

Meetings

December 5, 2019

The panel met to discuss the Terms of Reference for the award and the application requirements. As a group, the panel decided that the Life and Climate award should not duplicate the funds available through other opportunities (i.e., University of Lethbridge Research Fund, University of Lethbridge Travel Fund, salaries, etc.). The committee ranked the applications based on the connection between life and climate and how dissemination would have an impact. They were evaluated on the quality of writing and the justification of the proposal. Nine applications were received requesting \$45,885, which greatly exceed the available funds (\$8,500). The committee elected to partially support three applications.

4.6 NATURAL SCIENCES UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

Members

Eight members from the SOURCE College of Peer Reviewers appointed as representative from each of the departments within the natural sciences. The members were as follows:

- Julie Lee-Yaw (Biological Sciences),
- Athan Zovoilis (Chemistry & Biochemistry),
- Laura Chasmer (Geography),
- Claudia Gonzalez (Kinesiology & Physical Education),
- Joy Morris (Mathematics & Computer Sciences),
- Majid Mohajerani (Neuroscience),
- Locke Spencer (Physics & Astronomy), and
- JB Leca (Psychology).

Locke Spencer and Laura Chasmer served as co-chairs.

Meetings

Calibration meeting (via email)

The review panel met for a calibration meeting.

February (in person)

The Review Panel adjudicated 82 applications to fill our institutional quota of 25 awards. The committee offered 28 awards valued at \$8,730 (comprised of the NSERC USRA Stipend, and top ups from the supervisor and the University operating funds). This includes 3 awards to Indigenous students, which are eligible but do not count towards our institutional quota.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Robert Wood
Interim Vice-President (Research)
Committee Chair