



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Professor Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean
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PRESENTER:
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 27, 2020 for May 4, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Office of the Vice-Principal Research

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.7 of its terms of reference, the Academic Affairs Committee receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including research.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Academic Affairs Committee [For Information] (May 4, 2020)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The annual report was provided for information to the Academic Affairs Committee on May 6, 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The OVPR is continuing to highlight the impact and profile of the UTM research community. View to the U podcast is hitting record numbers, and at the recommendation of UTM Communications, we've expanded its availability through Spotify.
- The inaugural year of CDRS has been a tremendous success, and CDRS has hosted many scholarly events, specifically spotlighting MN researchers' expertise across a range of humanities and social science research areas.
- The OVPR has finalized the recruitment and onboarding of the Imaging Centre and Research Greenhouse Senior Research Associates.

- The portfolio was expanded with a new role—Internal Competitions & Events Coordinator—to manage the growing catalogue of funding opportunities within the OVPR.
- The OVPR has intensified its collaboration with I&ITS to ensure that UTM faculty have access to the computing infrastructure needed for their research activities.
- Given recent events, the OVPR portfolio was instrumental in coordinating the ramping/shutting-down of much of the on-campus research activities. The VPR continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation in close collaboration with the St.G VPRI and the VPRI’s senior leadership team.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Annual Report: Office of the Vice-Principal Research



2019-20 REPORT TO AAC

Office of the Vice-Principal Research



OVPR MISSION & KEY CONTACTS

Mission:

Support, promote & inspire the research, scholarship & creative activity of our research community, and enhance the research environment, reputation & profile of UTM.

- Devin Kreuger, Director OVPR
- Carla DeMarco, Research Communications & Grants Manager
- Maeve Doyle, Research Communications & Grants Officer
- Rong Wu, Internal Competitions & Events Coordinator
- Veron Fernandes, Office Administrator



INVESTMENTS IN **CORE FACILITIES**

Senior Research Associates will provide strategic leadership and hands-on day-to-day operational support in key core facilities shared by UTM's researchers:

- NMR Suite (2020 TBD)
- Research Greenhouse (December 2019)
- Digital & Collaborative Scholarship (July 2019)
- Imaging Centre (March 2020)

The inaugural year of CDRS (Collaborative Digital Research Space) has been a tremendous success, and CDRS has hosted many scholarly events, specifically spotlighting MN researchers' expertise across a range of humanities and social science research areas.



INVESTMENT\$ IN RESEARCH COMPUTING

The critical function of Research Computing for UTM's research community intensifies each year.

The OVPR has subsequently expanded its collaboration with I&ITS to ensure that UTM faculty have access to the computing infrastructure needed for their research activities.

The Research Computing Working Group ensures that I&ITS has direct feedback from UTM's research community, and strategic I&ITS decisions can be made in consultation with research users.



PROMOTING **SUCCESS**

The OVPR's research communications team has been actively implementing the tactics identified in the consultant's strategy (from 2018-19), and are embedding the fresh narrative into their stories, videos, etc.

View to the U podcast is hitting record numbers, and at the recommendation of UTM Communications, we've expanded its availability through Spotify.

The OVPR research communications team has been collaborating with UTM Communications very robustly through the COVID-19 situation, and many of the OVPR's prior publicity/communications work is being refreshed and recycled.



RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Given recent events, the OVPR portfolio was instrumental in coordinating the ramping/shutting-down of much of the on-campus research activities.

The VPR continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation in close collaboration with the St.G VPRI and the VPRI's senior leadership team.

The wisdom of previous OVPR strategic decisions, such as investing in a Vivarium Veterinary Director, and hiring SRA's to manage core facilities, is being illuminated during this campus closure. We are confident that UTM's core facilities are in great hands, and will weather this closure as best as is possible.

THANK YOU



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