



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTM Academic Affairs Committee

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

DATE: April 26, 2021 for May 3, 2021

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 3, 2021)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The annual report was provided for information to the Academic Affairs Committee on May 4, 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The OVPR's primary focus through 2020-21 has been to facilitate the research ramp-down and subsequent staged restart activities in response to the pandemic, including implementing new administrative 'research restart' procedures, managing Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF) cost-recovery programs, and aiding PPH in the vaccination site preparations.
- Core facilities operated by the OVPR all now have Senior Research Associate leads, and their work has been critical in ensuring smooth, safe operation of mission-critical research infrastructure through the pandemic. The SRAs are all establishing long-term infrastructure renewal plans and are collaborating on developing programming to support UTM's PDF community.

- Elspeth Brown has been appointed as Associate VPR, and will advance UTM-engagement in Institutional Strategic Initiatives.
- OVPR launched new internal funding schemes, including: ‘Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Scholar/Research Grant Program’, ‘First Book Manuscript Workshop Competition’, ‘UTM Tri-Council PDF Top-Up Program’, and ‘COVID-Response Transit Reimbursement policy for graduate students/PDFs’.
- As of April 5th 2021, UTM research revenues for 2020-21 is ~\$14.8M (recent tri-council results not included)
- View to the U had its most ‘listened to’ year, with an international audience across 50 countries. The top five most popular episodes are those featuring Loren Martin, Jennifer Stellar, Alex Gillespie, Ron Buliung, and John Paul Ricco.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Annual Report: Office of the Vice-Principal Research, UTM

THE
EPIC
YEAR
THAT
WAS

2020-21:

OVPR REPORT TO AAC

Kent Moore, Vice-Principal Research &
Elspeth Brown, Associate Vice-Principal Research

OVPR MISSION & KEY CONTACTS

Our mission is to support, promote & inspire the research, scholarship & creative activity of our research community, and to enhance the research environment, reputation & profile of UTM.

- Devin Kreuger, OVPR Director (retiring in June, search underway)
 - Carla DeMarco, Research Communications & Grants Manager
 - Rong Wu, Competitions & Events Coordinator
 - Veron Fernandes, Office Administrator
 - Xin Zhao, Biological Core Facilities Technician
 - Peter Duggan, Academic Workshop Supervisor
- Kerri Neilsen, Veterinary Director

COVID-19 RAMP-DOWN & RESTART

- Veron processed 35 critical research continuation requests in March 2020, and ~150 research restart forms throughout 2020-21, requiring coordination with HR & Campus Police
- Rong facilitated UTM's Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF) processes; Stage 3 provided \$300K, + ~\$50K top-up for PIs from the OVPR's Research Fund
- Maeve returned to BMC when their program coordinator left
- Carla managed the 2020 grant season solo, processing & supporting over 260 grant applications, including 3 CFI JELFs.
- Coordinated with Peel Public Health to support the vaccination site, with Peter, Xin, and Mirek providing on-campus assistance.

CORE FACILITIES: NEW LEADERS & INITIATIVES

Senior Research Associates are providing strategic leadership and hands-on day-to-day operational support in key core facilities shared by UTM's researchers, and during 2020-21, the SRAs ensured operational continuity through a turbulent year.

- **Dimitry Pichugin**, NMR Suite
- **Vera Velasco**, Research Greenhouse
- **Elizabeth Parke**, Digital & Collaborative Scholarship (Co-Working Space)
- **Kathryn Harris-Howard**, Imaging Centre

All of the SRAs operating equipment-based facilities are creating long-term infrastructure renewal plans, in collaboration with their Advisory Committees

NEW AVP RESEARCH: **ELSPETH BROWN**

- Leadership for collaborative research initiatives, through facilitating the development and operational planning for strategic research clusters
- Aligning UTM researchers with UofT-wide research priorities/clusters
- Advancing UTM- and University-wide research activities
- New support program:
UTM Support for Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI) Proposals

INVESTMENT\$ IN SCHOLARSHIP

The OVPR's suite of programs continues to support a vast range of research and scholarly activity, most adjudicated through UTM's Research Council, including:

- Research & Scholarly Activity Fund | Outreach, Conference & Colloquia Fund
- UTM/Jackman Humanities Institute Annual Seminar
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Award program
- PDF Research Grants, & PDF Conference Travel Grants
- 'SIG Matching' Faculty Research Travel Grant program
- **Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Scholar/Research Grant program**
- **First Book Manuscript Workshop Competition**
- **Tri-Council PDF Top-Up program**
- **COVID-response Transit Reimbursement policy for graduate students/PDFs**

2020-2021: **\$14.8M** REVENUES

- \$14.8M research revenues for UTM as of April 5, 2021, from all sponsors (but not including any Tri-Council funding from the fall 2020 competitions). This is an increase from 2019-2020, when our revenues were \$13.2M.
- For comparison UTSC's 2020-2021 revenues are \$14.8M, and FAS's is \$87.1M
- 2020 SSHRC Insight Grant results recently arrived, and UTM's success rate was 53%. We've maintained our usual high success rate, even through the pandemic, and one-person short on the OVPR's grant team.

PROMOTING SUCCESS

Our research communications team lost Maeve to BMC, but Carla has continued to implement the OVPR's research communication strategy.

- **View to the U** podcast: 2020 was our "most listened-to" year, with an international audience across 50 countries. Our top episodes to date are:
Loren Martin * Jennifer Stellar * Alex Gillespie * Ron Buliung * John Paul Ricco
- Early in 2020, Carla was partially seconded to the UTM Communications team to aid in COVID-related campus communications. She has returned to the OVPR team with deeper insights into the priorities and operation of UTM Communications that will allow her to promote research stories more effectively.
- Celebration of Books & Smarti Gras will be back for 2021, virtually.

THANK YOU



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