



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTM Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Professor Kent Moore, Vice-Principal, Research
CONTACT INFO: vpresearch.utm@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: N/A
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 2, 2022 for May 9, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Office of the Vice-Principal Research, 2020-21, UTM

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 9, 2022)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The annual report was provided for information to the Academic Affairs Committee on May 3, 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The OVPR has three new leadership roles. Dr. Payam Zahedi joined as our new Director in August of 2021. In November of that year, Dr. Shawn Davis started as the new Veterinary Director. After serving for 6-months as interim VP Research, Prof. Steven Short took up a newly created role as AVP Research – Facilities. All three positions have strengthened UTM research efforts.
- The staff complement has increased, allowing for greater support to our community. Two Strategic Development Officers, part of the Project 27 initiative at U of T, were hired. Drs. Ana Pogoutse and Jessica Lapp bring expertise to aid our faculty in grant application development and have already worked on expanding resources, including launching the

first ever grant and fellowship application repository. Tanya Rohrmoser was hired as Communication Officer, and during her tenure she has already improved the OVPR website architecture and updated content, expanded social media footprint, rebranded bi-monthly research newsletter, better aligned our brand to U of T.

- Attended departmental and institute faculty meetings (13 thus far) over past 10 months, presenting an overview of OVPR with many lively discussion and useful feedback.
- Surveyed new and ECR faculty on research needs, and then held a meeting with them.
- Continued investment in research via internal programs, including awarded 10 seed funds and 2 workshop/ outreach development funds through the Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Scholar/Research Grant Program.
- Successfully ran inaugural SSHRC Grant-Writing Cohort Program (25 faculty participants). Plan to run again and to also have NSERC and CIHR streams.
- \$14.5M+ research funds from external sources, including \$10.8M from Tri-Agency.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Annual Report: Office of the Vice-Principal Research, 2020-21, UTM

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRINCIPAL, RESEARCH

Annual Report to UTM Academic Affairs Committee

May 9, 2022



Overview

Mission

To “support, promote & inspire the research, scholarship & creative activity of our research community” and “enhance the research environment, reputation & profile of UTM.”

Goals

- Provide resources and infrastructure to support our roster of intrepid researchers
- Elevate UTM’s reputation and standing as a research-intensive institution
- Resource and lead on multidisciplinary research endeavors
- Expand external partnerships

Personnel Update

Leadership

- Payam Zahedi joined as new Director, OVPR in Aug/21
 - Oversees admin staff, works closely with the VPR and AVPRs on strategic initiatives, collaborates with UTM units and VP offices, VPRI, and other research Directors, and involved with core facilities and research infrastructure management.
- Shawn Davis joined as new Veterinarian Director in Nov/21
 - Manages UTM vivarium, leads animal techs and works closely with the U of T Head Veterinarian on compliance matters.
- Steven Short (BIO), appointed as AVP, Research – Facilities, Feb/22 (acting VPR from Aug/21 till Jan/22)
 - Ensures continued sustainability and growth of UTM's research infrastructure, including core research facilities which are so essential to our community.



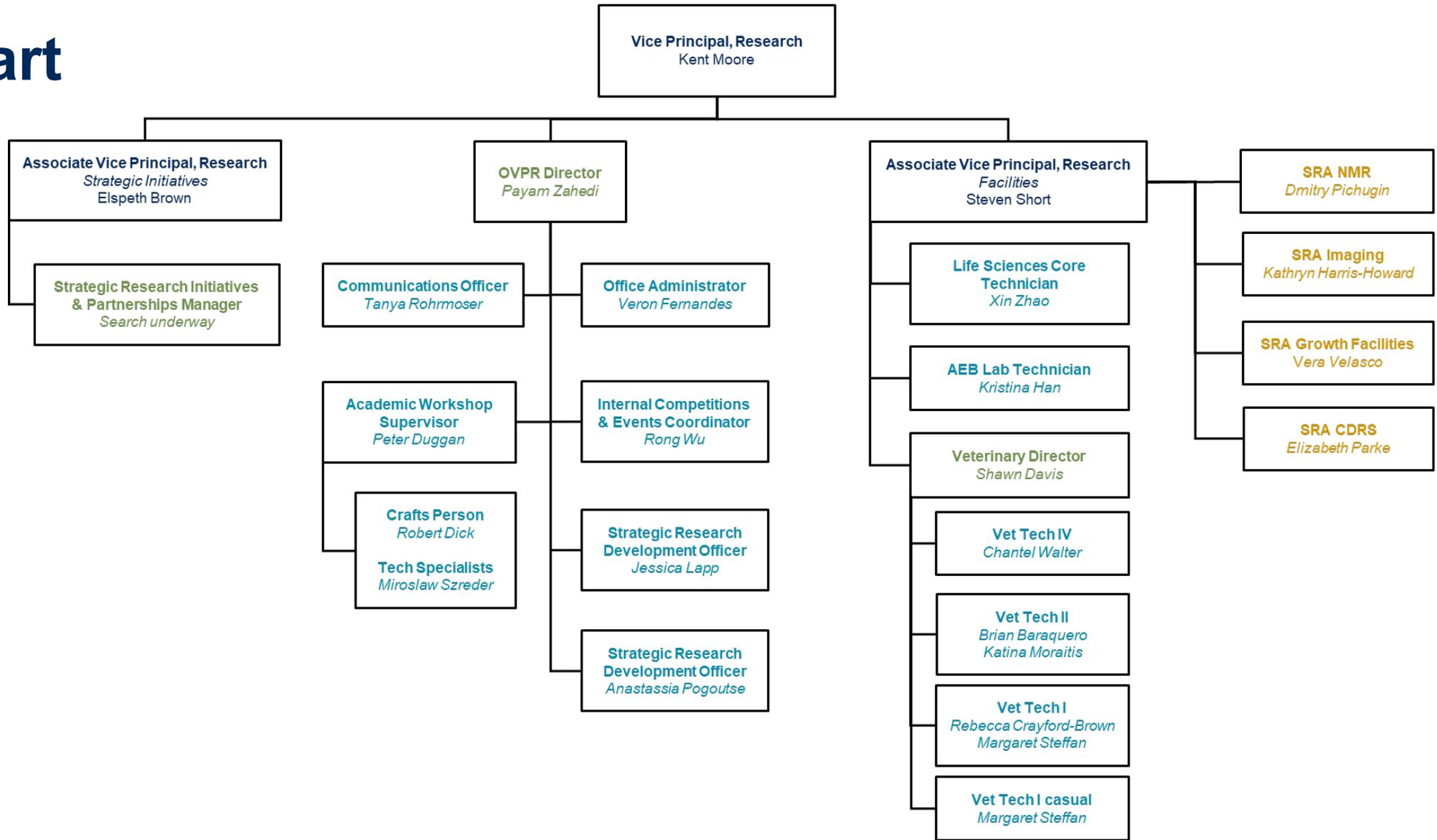
Personnel Update

Staff

- Carla DeMarco on secondment with Office of the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean. Simon Sherman, Crafts Person, has left the Academic Workshop.
- Hired:
 - Strategic Research Development Officers: Ana Pogoutse & Jessica Lapp
 - Communication Officer: Tanya Rohrmoser (supports Critical Digital Humanities Initiative as well)
- Plan to hire a Strategic Research Initiatives and Partnership Manager
- Desire to add one more staff to support research and awards application development

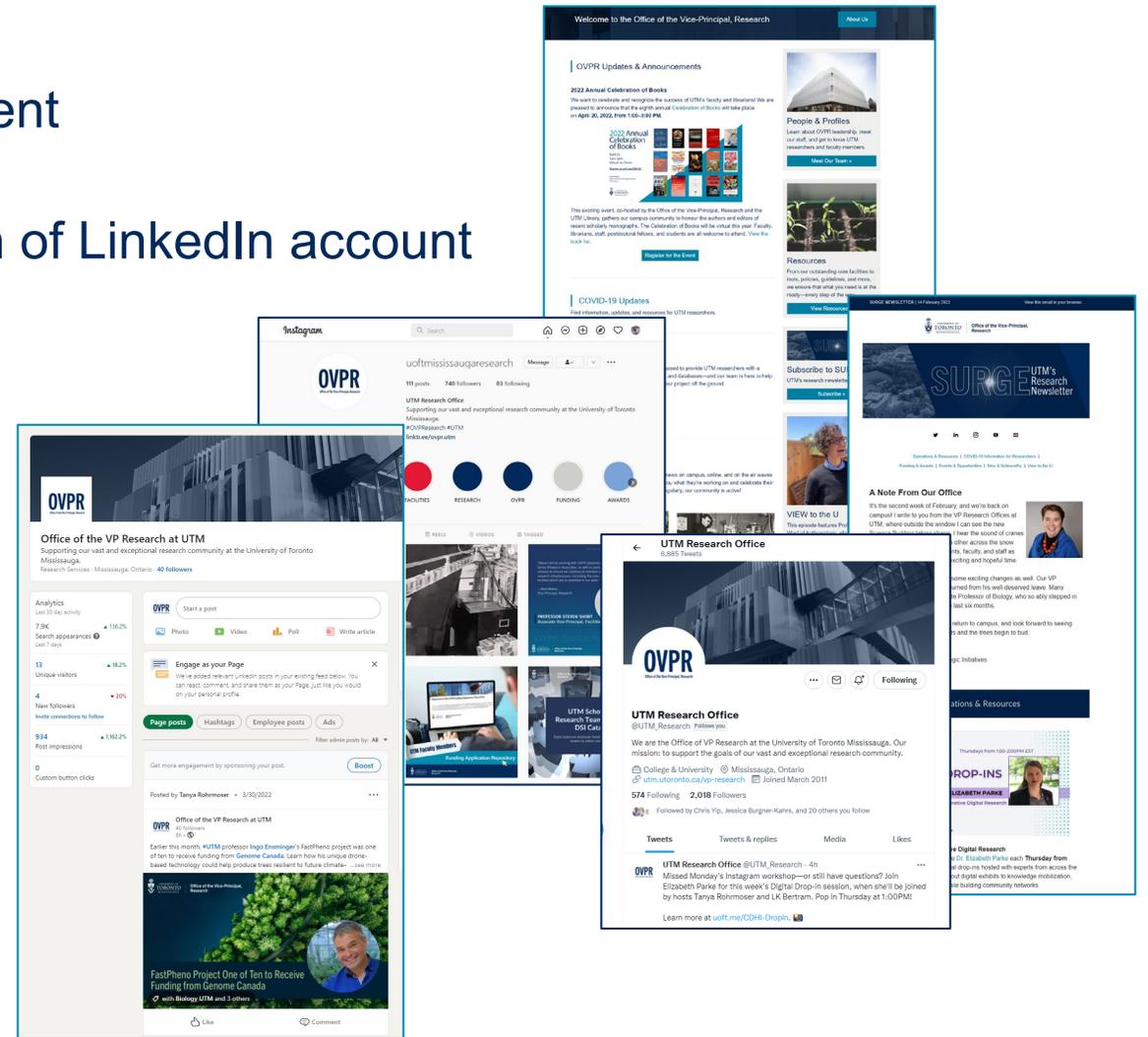


Org Chart



Communications

- Improved website architecture and updated content
- Expanded social media footprint including launch of LinkedIn account
- Rebranded bi-monthly research newsletter
- Alignment of our brand to U of T
- Launching new spotlight article series.



2021 Events (all virtual)

- Celebration of Books - 33 books, 23 participating authors presented from 13 different departments, and nearly 90 people tuned in.
 - 2022 event on April 20
- Smarti Gras - 63 posters from 9 different departments, with 170 participants. First year we offered trainee presentation awards (4 recipients).
 - 2022 event on August 16



Resources & Community Building

- Launched first repository housing grant & fellowship applications in March 2022
- Successfully ran inaugural SSHRC Grant-Writing Cohort Program (25 faculty participants)
 - In summer 2022 will offer again and expand to NSERC and CIHR
- Closer connection with Vice-Dean Faculty on resource sharing and Associate Research Chair pilot
- Surveyed new and ECR faculty on research needs, and then held a meeting with them
- Attended departmental meetings over past 10 months - many lively discussion and useful feedback
- Expanded and updated equipment & infrastructure in the core facilities. Planning to launch a central booking system for all the cores by the summer.
- With input from our Research Council have developed a Divisional Quantitative Research Strategic Plan

UTM Funding & Awards 2021-2022

Research

- Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Scholar/Research Grant Program
 - Awarded 10 seed funds and 2 workshop/ outreach development funds
- Research and Scholarly Activity Fund
 - 18 awardees
- Postdoctoral Fellowships
 - 5 awardees
- Pandemic Impact Support Fund 2021 in partnership with the OVPP
 - Supported 34 faculty of up to \$25K per person

Faculty Awards

- Annual Research Prize
 - Profs. Andrew Beharry (CPS); Bailey McMeans (BIO); Cosmin Munteanu (ICCIT); Owen Ware (PHILOS)
- Desmond Morton Research Excellence Award
 - Prof. Martin Revermann (Historical Studies) - “The Theatre of Science”

Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI)

Two initiatives based at UTM:

- Critical Digital Humanities Initiative, led by Prof. Elspeth Brown (Historical Studies)  **CRITICAL DIGITAL HUMANITIES INITIATIVE**
DIGITAL HUMANITIES NETWORK
- Black Research Network, led by Prof. Beth Coleman (ICCIT) 

Three initiatives under development:

- Pharmaceutical and Medical Innovation Xcellerator, led by Prof. Scott Prosser (CPS)
- The Global Past, co-led by Profs. Jill Caskey (Visual Studies) & Ajay Rao (Historical Studies)
- Science Communication Institute, co-led by Profs. Jodie Jenkinson (BIO) & Marc Dryer (BIO)

External Funding & Awards 2021 (Jan-Dec)

Research - \$14.5M+ total

- Tri-Agency - \$10.8M
- Government - \$1.85M
- Not-for-Profit Sector - \$1.34M
- Private Sector - \$0.42M

Faculty Awards

- Akwasi Owusu-Bempah (Sociology), President's Impact Award, UofT
- Yevgeny Liokumovich (MCS), Sloan Research Fellowship, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Stay Connected



@UTM_Research



@uoftmississaugaresearch

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
NEWSLETTER:**



/vp-research

bit.ly/OVPRSurge