

VPRI Community Chat December 7, 2012 9:00pm Room 241 Calumet College	
2 Participants	
Agenda Item	Notes
Discussion with VPRI Rob Haché	<p>Opportunity for research community to engage with VPRI Rob Haché and SRP consultation leads on an informal basis with respect to the strategic research plan development. Meeting schedule available at http://srp.info.yorku.ca</p> <p><u>Comments & Clarifications from Community Chat Participants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Commented that teaching loads at York differed from other research intensive institutions – others are at 1.5 to 2.0 teaching load -Currently at York it is 2.5 teaching load on average, but some diversity/variation across campus- disciplinary variation and other structural reasons -Clarified that it is a complex issue, but departments and units have to look at how they are allowing faculty to be successful, especially at the Faculty unit level, addressing both the teaching and research needs –building the culture of research -Asked participants how the variation be dealt with in an equitable manner? -Faculty Deans aren't addressing the entire picture – assessments of teaching and research and the achievements of each Faculty member -Clarified that student contact is essential and broadening participation and expectation of participation – looking to express that in the Plan -Stressed that is essential to link teaching and research- they are not isolated -Tenure & promotion process needs to be clarified- emphasis is on professional contribution and standing rather than research excellence -Clarified that teaching and research should be interactive, mutually beneficial to students -Tenure & promotion should be flexible, and recognize the ebbs and flows in careers -Within Nursing at York there has recently been a turnover of senior members with more junior members joining – would like to see more professional development or mentoring -Asked participants how VPRI can help to build the underlying support for research -Suggested that VPRI needs to facilitate research – need to make it seem easier rather than harder -Suggested eliminating more red tape/ hurdles – example PRASE reforms are receiving a good reception at York – although may seem like small steps they are effective steps -Emphasized that York has broad strengths rather than niche expertise – advice is to focus strategic opportunities -We have strengths in some areas that are robust but not necessarily externally recognized eg: Environmental Studies- need to strengthen our base in this area -Expressed concern that we grow our external research recognition -Clarified that we are working to raise our visibility/ recognition on the national scene -Recognized that we are well positioned to excel on the social sciences and policy side and felt that other areas will follow naturally, especially with a few key hires -Emphasized that students are very keen to be a part of the research process and faculty are excited to get them involved and share in the process- there is a real win/win at York University -However cautioned - the nature of the professorate has changed from solitary to more collaborative and this may be at odds with some of the researchers