

VPRI Community Chat January 11, 2013 9:00am Room 902, York Research Tower	
3 Participants	
Agenda Item	Notes
<p>Discussion with VPRI Rob Haché</p>	<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"> -Inquired about research activities at York and areas of involvement for graduate students not directly involved in a research intensive program -Encouraged discussion on why research is perceived as mediocre at York -Encouraged that recognition of different forms of performance, new kinds of creative forms of research and knowledge outputs, and new practices needs to be captured and reflected in the Plan- extending to other disciplines outside of Fine Arts -Clarified that there will be recognition and appropriate capture of Fine Arts outputs and other creative measures within the Plan, will ensure the Faculty's stellar reputation is recognized -Expressed some apprehension about pressure to follow trends in research, especially driven by financial outputs and budget – concerned that this philosophy conflicts with goals of research and open education, fine arts in particular may fall vulnerable to that -Many measures like Canada Council for the Arts don't get properly tracked and don't contribute to York's overall research income -Clarified that Plan will feature a variety of measures and looking in to how we can recognize this activity- sensitive to funded activity that does not receive full recognition -Sought clarification about themes and values, stressed inclusiveness of Plan as research at York is very broad -Highlighted the discrepancy between broad spectrum of research happening at York and what research is being funded by external granting agencies- sought clarification on what is important in terms of the Plan including course release and time dedicated to research -Not easy to disaggregate teaching from research, teaching is an important component and enriches environment for our students- cautioned that we need to be aware of how we provide access to research -Sought clarification on themes - emphasized that theatre at York is collaborative in nature, yet success based on the availability of projects – framing this type of creative research is dependent on the industry (creative value) Training the people for the industry that doesn't yet exist. Collaborative nature, based on availability of projects. Framing research within a research theme is dependent on the industry (creative value). -Expressed concern about themes and sought clarification on resources being tied to themes and whether the Plan will coincide with the philosophical traditions of LA&PS. -Clarified, no intent to shift resources. We already strategically support research in ORUs, for example. Plan will be flexible and will look to provide a broad base of support for research including support for individual research. -Sought clarification on how consultations are soliciting input into themes -Suggested theme: "Improving the Environmental Condition, Understanding the Global Environment", is multidisciplinary and many of those in science related disciplines A lot would see themselves fitting there -Stressed emphasis on inclusion of interdisciplinary Faculty collaboration focus in Plan-

ie: focus on arts/science agenda, could be addressed in the themes

- Clarified that interdisciplinarity within and across themes is important and will be featured in the Plan. An example would be an area like “digital media/digital futures”- being considered as a potential area of focus
- Cautioned that digital media is a very vague term and that the future domains emerging aren’t digitally based, should consider the use of “technologies” as it better encapsulates the domains described. Advised that “digital” sounds sexy and acknowledge that it is an external priority
- Clarified that the theme “Digital Media/Digital Futures” reflects broad/interdisciplinary areas and expressing our future aspirations
- Theme of “Improving the Human Condition” is a good fit for Fine Arts
- Emphasized the shift in culture in LA&PS towards more collaboration and will be helpful for Plan to encourage more of it, but stressed the need the need for the Plan to recognize and protect/support independent, individual research contributions as well
- Clarified that funding is becoming more collaboratively/partner focused, SSHRC in particular. York has been very successful in developing these partnerships, but soliciting partnered support for individual research needs to be part of our external advocacy- communicating our value externally
- Encouraged focus on graduate studies/students in the Plan, in particular address the restrictions in hiring foreign graduate/doctoral students
- Clarified that this is a provincial policy issue - limitations do not come from the university
- Influencing the NSERC to modify funding HQP requirement – more flexible on criteria