

**Workshop #1
October 2, 2012
9:00am- 11:00am
Room 305, Lumbers**

Present: R. Haché (VPRI), G. Miller (co-facilitator), C. Haig-Brown (co-facilitator), W.Tholen (Co-Chair), B. Edwards (VPRI Office), A. Zomer (VPRI Office)

-16 members from the York University research community attended: U. Verkerk, J. Tsotsos, G. Fraser, M. Jenkin, I. Boran, V. Saridakis, B. Heron, P. Karwowska-Desaulniers, L. Harris, B. Lightman, R. Tsushima, M. Bunch, J. Simeon, R. Ceddia, M. Hough, D. Hood

| Agenda Item | Notes |
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| Discussion facilitated by Gary Miller | <p>Workshops, accessible to all in the York community (faculty, staff, students) have been scheduled throughout October and November 2012 across the Keele and Glendon campuses, to engage the research community in examining York's core values with respect to research, probing our perceptions and seeking to prioritize our commitments to the support of research. Inherently an interdisciplinary exercise aiming to express who we are and what is important to us.</p> <p>Meeting schedule available at http://srp.info.yorku.ca</p> <p><u>Workshop Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Discuss the value that research brings to York -To explore York's competencies in the key areas of Research <p>1. <u>Participants' Hopes & Concerns for the SRP:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hopeful that the Plan will be inclusive, recognizing and capturing the wide variety of research being conducted including interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary work (eg: History of Science) -Welcomed the transparency and inclusiveness of the consultation but expressed concern that workshop feedback will not impact the Plan overall -Hopeful that Plan recognizes Life / Health Science as areas of strength -Recognizes and hopeful that Plan will not be so general as to water down the strengths we have, that it will be bold and have some potency, to encourage/ inspire a shift in research culture -Need leadership and ideas to make these changes -Hopeful that the new plan will be more than a slight alteration of the former one. -Hopeful that the Plan reflects the research strength we have in science-based research -Ensure that the plan addresses ways to better enable research at York, in particular creating a balance between teaching and research, and indirect costs to support research -Stressed that Plan should reinforce support for research, in particular life science research, and that the trade-offs required in balancing teaching, administration and research be acknowledged. -Look to other institutions for best practices <p>2. <u>Participant discussion of core values that drive research, both individually and broadly:</u></p> <p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -interdisciplinary/ cross-fertilization between disciplines -Excellence- measured by external standard- plan needs to articulate some criteria for what counts as excellence, should also include strategies to increase excellence -Ground breaking research that gives transferrable skills to students -academic freedom- speaking to government research policies -collaboration with colleagues at York and elsewhere |

- ethical responsibility/ social justice/ making change in the world
- impact- balance among short-, mid-and long term impact. Recognize that there may not be immediate impact in some research.
- contributions to economy/society- both indirect and direct contributions
- integrating research into teaching – training new generation of academics/scientists. This is one thing that distinguishes our university. Integrity in research in part of the teaching responsibility
- training in research and support of undergraduates, graduates, post-docs and new faculty
- Advancement of knowledge
- Competitive- need to see York in a global/wider context

Discussion of Values:

- Encouraged criteria to assess values within Plan – a strategy to intensify values and retain/increase competitiveness to increase support of research
- Sustainability of research is important as a long term value of research at York – intersection of ecological health and human well being, sustainability of research culture itself, impacting on researcher training and students
- Suggest should examine and track where York graduates go and employment metrics to show strengths and inform strategy on research and training
- Discussion on validity of York being recognized as Canada's research university- need to explore what we can be recognized for within the research realm

3. Participant discussion on areas of research that York excels in / needs improvement:

- Suggested Plan should encourage taking an active interest in research at all administrative levels at York- suggested beginning at Department Chair level to begin evaluating research more broadly (annual review of research) in order to encourage a shift the research culture
- research should be required to be visible and celebrated as a way of getting people excited about and aware of research at York eg: advertise our successes on webpage (including our graduates). Communicate amongst ourselves. Externally, promote undergrad research involvement in local papers, etc. Appeals to smaller communities in particular when local students are doing well
- Stressed better supporting fundamental research ie: space, phones, computers
- More hands-on approach needed at the Senior Executive level at York University-Allow for research to be conducted unencumbered- work to remove as many barriers to research as possible
- Suggested automatic teaching release for every tri-council research grant
- indirect funding – more trickle down to researchers/department, more transparency on what funds are spent on
- Suggested supporting harmonizing teaching loads with other institutions
- Encouraged focus on graduate studies/students in the Plan, in particular address the restrictions in graduate/doctoral students – FGS rules often impedes hiring of good students
- Encouraged better investment in new faculty, so they may be more effective in their research soon after they arrive at York University
- Suggested examining best practices of other institutions on support of research
- Serious system barriers – major difficulties when trying to employ York students
- Stressed the following should be focus of Plan – examining barriers imposed by research service providers ie: research accounting and procurement
- Suggest research service providers need more top-down direction to reinforce service standards
- Expressed need for collective agreements to reflect research expectations at York – objective of research intensification needs to be a part of the fabric of York
- Mentoring and other support programs for new faculty in research be included in Plan