

**Workshop #2
October 5, 2012
9:00am- 11:00am
BMO Room, Glendon Manor**

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

-6 members from the York University research community attended

| Agenda Item | Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 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, and have potency, recognizing and capturing the wide variety of research being conducted and balancing both specific and overarching research focus areas -Concern with the use of the word "strategic" which may alienate some Humanities faculty who see it emphasizing business interests as an outcome of research. -Hopeful Plan impacts on hiring, resourcing, budget decision-making etc. -hope that plan will recognize the contributions of liberal arts to critical thinking -Hopeful that the Plan reflects the research strength we have in Canadianist and International Studies scholars at York and at Glendon in particular -Hopeful Plan represents language and culture strengths -Expressed the need to protect and support individual research projects which may not appear to be strategic. -Hopeful the Plan will promote research clusters within and across disciplines at the same time that it places value on independent, individual research. -Welcomed the transparency and inclusiveness of the consultation but expressed concern that exercise will be perceived as a top-down exercise. -Worry that the plan is already in place. -All proposed themes may not be well suited to the research of more established faculty members -Overall concern that individual research will not be supported outside of SRP focused areas, but hopeful that opportunities to foster smaller, emerging research areas will still remain a priority and that researchers who work alone and who don't need or want extensive funding will still be valued. -Uneven graduate teaching opportunities, no mechanism for permitting a significant number of professors to teach in the graduate program and supervise graduate students, hopeful that there may be some way to normalize this across Faculties -POSSIBLE THEME: (Teaching the) Canada of Tomorrow -Hopeful that the Academic Plan and the Research Plan will be integrated. -Worry that the professoriate is aging so any new plan must take into account the possibility of unanticipated research directions as new faculty come on board. |

- Worry that the plan may try to focus or shift established researchers' interests.
- Hope for funding support from central administration
- Concern related to the balancing of graduate teaching and Glendon teaching assignments related to the need for access to graduate students for effective research in many cases
- Concern about research support for CLAs particularly when conducting international research

2. Participant discussion of core values that drive research, both individually and broadly:

Values:

- Empiricism – evidence based policies/practices
- Research informs undergraduate teaching
- Application
- Varied perspectives through teaching; new insights
- Curiosity
- Contributing to a vibrant campus community
- publication/dissemination
- connections made serendipitously when colleagues spend time together
- multidisciplinary, collaborative research
- Promoting the development and maintenance of Francophone culture and community
- considering paths not taken (as a Historian)
- teaching drives research and vice versa - tapping into something new through teaching exposure (as a linguist)
- global social justice- creating a just and democratic society- through teaching and research opportunities
- social/ political rights- creating a more well informed citizen
- Interdisciplinarity e.g. the law is hungry for social science knowledge

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

- Research office at Glendon is critical to success and should be supported and protected- they are vital to research support at Glendon. York workshops also helpful.
- post awards management and support challenging at York and can be a deterrent to pursuing large grants – improve system efficiency by addressing administrative red tape i.e.: expense reimbursement policy
- Per diem/ reimbursement policy is arduous, form is unnecessarily complex and technically difficult to navigate, especially when managing international travel – administrative support for process is lacking
- seed funding for smaller research projects would be valuable to researchers
- research accounting is a barrier to research, and is amplified at Glendon because of the distance, becomes a drain on time
- recognize the bilingual duality at York as a considerable strength
- Encouraged focus on PhDs and PDFs in the Plan, in particular address the restrictions in graduate/doctoral students at York- regard them as a key resource at York
- Serious difficulties when trying to employ York graduate students, often easier to hire graduate students from other institutions
- Ethics requirements in particular when dealing with Aboriginal and international partners is challenging to navigate, can obstruct trajectory of research in certain projects
- Ensure that the plan addresses ways to better enable research at York, in particular creating a balance between teaching, and research and research course releases
- Stressed a needed culture shift at York regarding research – research should be considered a prominent part of the conversation and fabric of York – should be including students in research from the start of their studies
- Influencing the NSERC to modify funding HQP requirement – more flexible on criteria
- CLAs at York fully recognized and supported – improving access to university supports- email, library access etc., when continuing appointments, and better integrating CLAs into Faculty to encourage a research agenda