

Workshop #3
October 16, 2012
9:00am- 11:00am
Senior Common Room, Founders College

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

-10 members from the York University research community attended: J.Morrison, K. Englander, S. Pottle, N. Sturgeon, V. Patroni, M. Lockshin, Z. Bhanji, J. Etcheverry, M. Martel, W. Gage

Agenda Item	Notes
<p>Discussion facilitated by Gary Miller & Celia Haig-Brown</p>	<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><u>Introductory Remarks:</u> This is an open, consultative process that we are undertaking, input is being sought from across the University to probe and capture the values and perceptions you have around research. This feedback will set the direction and focus of the Plan and help us to contribute to the strategic research themes set out in the SRP. Expressed gratitude that participants have joined the workshop. Workshop is only one of several opportunities to contribute to the development of the SRP, please consult the event schedule on the SRP website at: http://srp.info.yorku.ca</p> <p><u>Workshop Objectives:</u> -Discuss the value that research brings to York -To explore York’s competencies in the key areas of Research</p> <p>1. <u>Participants’ Hopes & Concerns for the SRP:</u> -Expressed concern around research impact and the metrics used to measure- relying on research income measures is problematic and doesn’t capture all types of research ie: arts and types of creative production -Conveyed concern about pressure to follow trends in research. Hopeful that the Plan will be inclusive, recognizing and capturing the wide variety of research being conducted and defining priorities in a broader fashion -Hopeful that Plan will be inclusive and not create winners and losers- we must reconcile external expectations and standards for research with who we are as an institution – York does important research and we are influential as a research institution -Appreciate that York does knowledge mobilization well with many tangible results, hope is that the Plan will include strategy to further KM aspirations whereby increasing York’s reputation both nationally and internationally -Expressed concern that Plan will not lead to tangible research results -Expressed concern about accessing research, hopeful that the SRP will help researchers access more research information -Stressed that research goals and objectives within the SRP should be defined independently of external research trends/bias -Hopeful that time allocated for research is valued within the Plan. An academic leave to do research has been helpful in increasing research productivity. -Plan needs to include strategies on nurture teams/ research partnerships -Expressed need to be more entrepreneurial on how we measure research</p>

- Do see the value in prioritizing, however concerned that given the financial challenges the university is facing, some research areas may take priority over others and all research may not be valued equitably- concern of marginalizing some researchers
- Further concern that students may be disregarded/ marginalized as well
- Research is an integral part of teaching and learning and the link needs to be at the forefront of the SRP conversation
- Stressed that we want our best researchers in the classroom, and that all levels of administration need to facilitate the support of young faculty members to foster their research
- 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 support
- Expressed concern around research policy flexibility when dealing with external partners eg: flexibility around research honorarium would be helpful when dealing with different kinds of communities
- Again, expressed apprehension around balancing priorities- bold decisions are tough but concerned with priorities marginalizing core researchers

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

- Considerable strengths and broad research being done across disciplines around the environment and sustainability- should be area of focus in Plan.
- Would consider improvement in communication between areas- should be better avenue to mobilize discussion across Faculties
- Strong research happening across Faculties at York however it doesn't seem to translate to reputation given the quality.
- Expressed concern that York's research isn't being conveyed as widely as it could be, with some researcher exceptions, our story isn't being heard – we need to better communicate it to future students/ future researchers
- Considerable strengths at York in Jewish Studies, academics around the world have heard of the work done in Jewish Studies at York – but goal should be to have York known to outside of academic realms
- Expressed need for more time if research productivity is to increase, particularly in the Humanities
- Excellent research happening at York. We are fortunate to have such a large, publically funded and robust university- especially when compared to other international institutions; considered underprivileged in comparison
- We should be striving for an excellent student experience- undergraduate education is hugely important and will impact the next generation of scholars
- Expressed need to be on the cutting edge to improve our research reputation and elevate our status, along with a research culture change (attitude)
- Again, expressed concern around post awards management and support – should be streamlined as currently a deterrent to pursuing large grants
- Conveyed optimism that PRASE deliverables on supports for research are promising- changes in areas of finance and procurement are going to net results
- Communicating our research: very relevant and leading edge researcher happening- is essentially are free recruitment if promotion enhanced
- Research focused on social justice is a strength at York, but we need to translate this to our students and develop research that will benefit our unique student population– we need to define student success differently for those disadvantaged students, involving those students in research will change the cycle of poverty
[SRP Theme suggested: critical pedagogy in a research context]
- Suggested creating a more dynamic campus
- York excels at social justice education and interdisciplinarity and should be defined in our research priorities
- However the budget crisis shouldn't define our approach to research
- Seed funding for smaller research projects would be valuable and considerably impact many research initiatives
- Financial troubles are concerning – may be a challenge to find the right research resource equation

- In comparison to other universities yfile's research coverage is falling short and is a great venue to express what research is happening at York
- There is a large focus at York to attract more international students to York, but supports for faculty to work with international students are lacking
- Expressed need to improve upon/ develop new ways to grow research funding, by being more entrepreneurial
- Again, expressed considerable strength in interdisciplinary approach at York, however consider communication and outreach out across Faculties could be better
- Stressed the considerable support the university has extended to large grants/ partnered grants, but emphasized that many smaller grants can be challenging because of lack research supports, creates disincentive to apply

3. Participant discussion of core values that drive/motivate research, both individually and broadly:

Values:

- working with graduate students is rewarding
- value the mix between teaching, research and service at York- the ability to develop young minds is valuable
- access and equity is key
- work within the York community, social justice and equity
- engaged in community that goes beyond York brings richness to work, hope is to help the facilitation the research of others in areas where they don't have access
- value tradition, change and innovation
- undergraduate experience is key
- Solving environmental and social problems
- KM approach is exciting
- experiential learning is transformative for students- that is key
- having fun in research
- Mitacs model/concept should be considered as a simplified process adopted more- entrepreneurial seeking of funding, and establishing undergrad and graduate internships
- value KM grants to create experiences with students- need to do more of that
- developing a virtual research park in York Region- is an untapped resource and initiative should be pursued