

Workshop #4
October 26, 2012
1:00pm- 3:00pm
Harry Crowe Room, 109 Atkinson

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

-13 members from the York University research community attended: R. McLaren, G. Shepherd, D. MacMillan, S. Bohn, A. Valente, T. Roberts, B. Cochrane, K.Li, J. Simeon, Y.Munro, J. Broussard, D. Mutimer, J. Huang

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><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 that Plan will represent York properly to the external community, and that it be inclusive and benefit all of the research community, especially smaller departments -Expressed gratitude for the inclusive process undertaken, but concerned that priorities will abstract and not put into practice easily, funds should be focused on essential research areas -Research initiatives should be blended with more practical experience for students -Stressed that research should be integrated at different levels, in particular with part-time staff -Expressed concern about the limitations of resources, resulting in a tension between areas of strength at the expense of areas that are not so strong, but nevertheless conduct quality research – encouraged a balanced approach -Concerned that there are various academic Plans at York and hopeful that the university will be able to connect all Plans so the university can move forward in symbiotic way, with a consistent direction -Hopeful that Plan will address and encourage developing early career researchers- especially for graduate students -Hopeful that Plan will bring together many of the areas of strength that currently seem to be disjointed -From the CSBO- hopeful that the university will build its research enterprise by connecting the necessary physical support from CSBO -Hopeful that the SRP can help researchers work together better, currently it is felt that</p>

research is very siloed

-Encouraged Plan maintain the value of non-traditional research- those that don't fit into the SRP themes

-Encouraged inclusiveness of Plan – do not want niche areas to be missed

-Hopeful that the SRP builds on our strengths at York, however concerned that the Plan may sit on the shelf and quickly become stale as research changes rapidly

-Hopeful that the Plan would develop a “central office of sustainability”- as many at York working in this research area- many other universities have developed this type of office

-Hopeful that there is a central role/ focus on community engaged research

-Hopeful that the Plan develops policies that create a better research culture and that following the Plan we achieve better intensification of our research

Core values or motivating factors that drive your research at York:

-research is pedagogically driven, curiosity driven

-important for institutions to study itself- and learning and developing through that

-discovery- things that haven't been done before, team research

-knowledge for impact

-Seeing ideas and visions executed and impacting real world

-Anger/ concern for current state motivates research

-Contributing to the discipline

-Student perspective- obtaining a career from research, students benefit from academic and practical experience

-Being accepted by peers outside the university, part of something bigger, contributing to the value of the research

-Passion for research

What areas of research support does York do well and what areas of research support need to improve/ barriers:

Areas of Excellence:

-York enables research partnerships well- York goes out of its way to develop/promote external partnerships

-Encouraged by helpful research workshops ie: grant writing workshops

-York has quality GAs and RAs that support research

-Excellent grant support for building budgets and application support

-Support of libraries, resources and supports is excellent at York- as well as excellent access to online resources

Needs Improvement:

-Stressed bringing teaching load in line with other research intensive institutions

-Emphasized transparency of research resources/ allocation of resources

-Support for graduate students generally, balance of work life balance and how it impacts their research

-Recruitment of international students- bring far more international students in to York

-Office of research accounting is significant barrier to research

-Office of research services- deadlines put increased strain on ORS supports

-Management of graduate programs, difficulty of starting PhD programs

Other discussion:

-The elimination of the supplemental research grant has hindered the research culture at York

-Closing of universities at Christmas hinders research productivity- this would not happen at a research intensive university

-CSBO responded- budget restrictions on heating and cooling buildings- however if budget model changes – if Faculties are responsible for their own energy then they can decide to open or close buildings- currently have a limited budget

-Campus safety when working late- environment does not feel like the hub of activity that other universities do

-Culture of research- need more collaborative work- sharing your research interest with others at York should be encouraged

-More acceptance of different types of research and individual research support needs –

- encouraged better equity of research support
- Stressed the expansion of support for the RAY student program, “Research at York” program
 - Consider more resources for research seed money
 - Encouraged additional grant workshops provided to researchers – conducted by people that have been successful in that grant
 - Encouraged the development of a peer review program for grants
 - Stressed more resources to participate in conferences
 - Encouraged ORS to be more aggressive in grant info dissemination- should be done on a daily basis
 - Treatment of faculty members at ORS- based on size of grants only
 - Transparency on how allocate the resources – ie: how course releases are allocated
 - Suggested establishing a publishing house at York
 - Encouraged more journals should be housed at York
 - Emphasized communications lacking across university

Gary- thanked and encouraged participation consultations that are upcoming as well as November open forum and online survey: <http://srp.info.yorku.ca>