

**Workshop #5
November 1, 2012
1:00pm- 3:00pm
Room 519, York Research Tower**

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

-17 members from the York University research community attended: M. Dimkovski, K. Birch, T.Womelsdorf, R. Pillai Riddell, Y. Bohr, S. Yeung, N. Madras, E. Miranda, A. Dubreuil, J. Wilkins, S. Bisnath, S. Morin, S. Benchimol, W. Aghashirin, N. Mulé, M. Reisenleitner, U. Verkerk

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 as a new CIHR investigator, no mechanisms to support research following completion of large grants/ CRCs -Clarified: new accessible grants will be announced soon to support those that are completing CRCs -Hopeful that Plan will include support for individual research -Emphasized that York has a strong tradition on cutting edge humanities based research, and developing progressive programs, worried that focus will be lost if Plan is driven by external forces/ satisfying federal priorities -Stressed need for time available for research – currently not enough time for research -Hopeful if research enterprise is to be strengthened that it will be important to have more unit based resources that enable research- especially administrative support -Infrastructure support for research is stressed, in particular more structured support for young investigators – mentoring, writing grants etc. -Hopeful that the Plan will address what supports researchers need to intensify their research, in particular grant support -Stressed need to overcome teaching and research divide -Expressed that graduate assistantships at York should be better related to research, when students aren't part of a project that isn't their passion, impact is diminished -Should consider new hires a priority- and enable better opportunities to pursue research</p> <p>2. <u>Participant discussion of core values that drive/motivate research, both individually</u></p>

and broadly:

- Ability to focus on scientific curiosity
- Critical scholarship
- Making the world a better place
- Being widely recognized for critical research
- Learning/ doing something new
- Shining a light on something that was previously thought to be less important
- Collaboration/multidisciplinary

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

Doing well:

- Considerable support for life-sciences programming and research- including great infrastructure, space, library/information consortium between universities, and technology
- Strengths in research administrative support – have been considerable improvements in ORS support and at the Faculty level on research grant support
- Communications and marketing strength
- Interdisciplinary unit and research centres
- York Social Science and Humanities ranks very well
- York is considered progressive

Needs improvement:

- Improvements needed for mid-career researcher through to senior level researcher support
- Reiterated need for time for research- considers teaching load at other universities better
- Insufficiencies in research accounting
- Connection between research and teaching needs improvement- better awareness for research practicum courses
- Support for international graduate students
- Limited unit funding for seminar series- small funding required
- Centralized research event listserve needed
- Software licences needed for research
- Better visiting scholar support - both visiting at York and at other institutions
- Deferred maintenance of buildings on campus, especially the older buildings is needed