

**RAC Minutes**  
**May 7, 2020 | 1:30pm-3:30pm | BlueJeans**

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**Present:** Satwinder Bains, Jerri-Lynne Cameron, Shelley Canning, Irwin Cohen, Mai Anh Doan, Garry Fehr, Sandra Gillespie, Mary Higgins, Masud Khawaja, Lucy Lee, Zina Lee, Olav Lian, James Mandigo (Guest), Amanda McCormick, Lenore Newman, Victoria Surtees, Jon Thomas (Chair), Kelly Tracey.

**Recorder:** Tracy Morrison.

**Regrets:** Keith Carlson, Danielle Mijo-Burch.

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**Welcome and Introductions**

Jon Thomas (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. ITEMS FOR ADOPTION**

**1.1 Agenda: 2020 MAY 07**

MOTION: THAT the agenda from the May 7, 2020 RAC meeting be approved as presented  
Garry Fehr, Masud Khawaja CARRIED

**1.2 Minutes: 2020 MAR 12**

MOTION: THAT the minutes from the March 20, 2020 RAC meeting be approved as presented  
Masud Khawaja, Lucy Lee CARRIED

**2. BUSINESS**

**2.1 Provost and Vice President Academic James Mandigo – Research at UFV**

- Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and Vice President, Academic presented on his views of the importance of research, and research at UFV.
- As an academic, Dr. Mandigo understands the importance of research as it informs teaching, and teaching informs service. Integrated together, research contributes to faculty becoming better academics, creating better experiences for students, and providing more positive service to our communities.
- UFV's focus on undergraduate students makes a positive contribution to our society by giving students extra advantages through their participation in research that most students at other universities would not receive until the graduate level.
- The communities that UFV serves now expect our research that involves and supports our society.
- UFV does lack recognition of our research activity from our provincial government as we are currently in a teaching intensive category.
- There are internal barriers to overcome and more support needed for research before we can move to a new classification of university.
- UFV is also different from other universities in that PD funds cannot be used for research, but fortunately, there are internal and external funds to assist researchers.

**Q&A:**

- With UFV's official university status in 2008, many local leaders were under the impression that UFV had a focus on research as most universities do.

- Local officials are impressed with the amount of research UFV does, and the work that directly contributes to the community.
- UFV has a great passion for research, but has yet to be fully supported at the Provincial level.

How do we gain the new label of research focused, rather than teaching intensive from the provincial government?

- Dr. Mandigo has had great discussions with local MLAs who are advocates for us. They are bringing awareness to the research being done at UFV.

Where do we start? Do we need the support of larger research universities, or will they feel threatened if UFV moves toward a research focus?

- With the support of local MLAs and others in government, it might be easier to move to a new classification.
- UFV has made great contributions to food security, which is an important focus right now, especially with COVID-19.
- Local support is critical and we already have that, and hopefully the Premier will be supportive as well.
- Do not worry about other universities; this is not a concern of theirs and they will not be involved in this process.
- It will be important however to possibly recruit some form of business support.
  
- The community holds UFV research in high esteem. The community is now on board with our research and they expect it from us.
- We are now primed to make this move with systems in place, we are invested, and we have shown we can already do this.
  
- We now have windows of opportunity through food security and our involvement in the community. It is time to communicate even more what we do as was presented in the researcher booklet that came from the Research Office.
  
- COVID-19 has affected us in different ways, but the main way to get out of this pandemic is research – modelling, data collection, vaccine development – the data is at our fingertips.
- Our society is recognizing the power of research more so now with this pandemic.

## **2.2 RAC Chair and Vice Chair nominations and election**

- There was a call for nominations put out on Friday, May 1, 2020 for the new RAC chair and vice-chair as the two-year term for Jon Thomas (chair) and Joanna Sheppard (vice chair) has come to an end.
- Garry Fehr thanked Jon Thomas and Joanna Sheppard for their contributions and commitment over the last two years.

Chair: Satwinder Bains (accepted nomination) – no other nominations from the floor.  
Seconder: Olav Lian  
ACCLAIMED

Vice Chair: Lenore Newman (accepted nomination) – no other nominations from the floor.  
Seconder: Garry Fehr  
ACCLAIMED

### 3. DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Adaptations and opportunities in research during COVID-19

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1clGjGABB2h2qbduTgfqribHmog9B6P0NvMgVuiHZCl8/prview#>

- Jon Thomas opened the discussion in regards to the above Google document on opportunities and adaptations to research during COVID-19.
- How are different disciplines affected by the pandemic, and does the information found in the above document fit into various research disciplines?
- Garry Fehr: The document has 34 different qualitative methods and different ways to use digital research methods. There are approximately 10 links to other resources for different methods of research during these remote working conditions.
- There was a discussion on ethics and how UFV is addressing applications during this time and if there is a national conversation or guidelines on how to address research protocols at this time.
- HREB at UFV is asking those with active approved projects to submit amendments to their original project if their data collection or any other aspect of their project has changed due to the pandemic. Researchers are required to ensure that proper procedures are in place for physically distancing and sanitization.
- As there currently is no national conversation on COVID-19 and ethics, Yvette Fairweather, UFV Ethics and Compliance Officer, is looking at other universities and the HREB continues to pull information together as quickly as possible.
- Currently, HREB is looking at projects and amendments on a case-by-case basis.
- Please consider the Tri-Council Agencies guidelines that are regularly updated and posted on the NSERC website: [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/NewsDetail-DetailNouvelles\\_eng.asp?ID=1139](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/NewsDetail-DetailNouvelles_eng.asp?ID=1139)

### 4. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 4.1 President's Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion working group update – Satwinder Bains

- The President's Office has organized an EDI task force to undertake an evaluation of EDI at UFV. The taskforce has outlined goals and created working groups to identify gaps at UFV in order to address EDI policy.
- The EDI task force involves institution wide participation. The working plans are scheduled to be made public this fall, but might have to be delayed due to COVID-19.
- If anyone is interested in joining a working group please contact Adrienne Chan at

[Adrienne.Chan@ufv.ca](mailto:Adrienne.Chan@ufv.ca), or Christina Forcier in the President's Office at [Christina.Forcier@ufv.ca](mailto:Christina.Forcier@ufv.ca).

- For more information on EDI at UFV, please see <https://www.ufv.ca/president/presidents-task-force-on-equity-diversity-and-inclusion/>.

#### **4.2 Research Office Report – attached to agenda package**

#### **4.3 Human Research Ethics Board Report – Zina Lee**

- COVID-19 related research projects are prioritized for review by HREB.
- If there are any COVID-19 related changes to protocols that have previously been approved by HREB, please submit an amendment as soon as possible.
- The turn around time is quite quick at the moment.

#### **4.4 Teaching and Learning Advisory Council Report – attached to agenda package**

#### **4.5 Senate Research Committee Report – Shelley Canning**

- The Research Excellence Award recipient was approved at Senate, but will not be announced publically until the end of May.
- SRC recommended three new centres: The Peace and Reconciliation Centre, the Health and Social Innovation Hub, and the Esposito Family Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (EFCIE).
- The SRC also reviewed their terms of reference, as they do annually.

#### **4.6 Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) information – attached to agenda package**

### **5. ADJOURNMENT – 2:40 pm**

#### **5.1 Next meeting: September 17, 2020, 1:30 pm, location TBA.**