Present:	Barnabe Assogba, Satwinder Bains (Chair), Jerri-Lynne Cameron, Shelley Canning, Keith Carlson, Irwin Cohen, Mai Anh Doan, Christine Elsey, Garry Fehr, Paul Fontaine, Peter Geller, Shawn Geniole, Gillian Hatfield, Claire Hay, Cindy Jardine, Masud Khawaja, Lucy Lee, Olav Lian, Catherine Liao, Amanda McCormick, Cynthia Thomson, Martin Warkentin, Amanda Wurz.
Recorder:	Tracy Morrison.
Regrets:	James Bedard, Albert Kim, Lenore Newman (Co-Chair).

Welcome and Introductions –
Satwinder Bains welcomed everyone (new and current members) back to the new academic year and to the RAC meeting.

1. **ITEMS FOR ADOPTION**
   1.1 Agenda: 2021 SEPT 17
   MOTION: THAT the agenda from the September 17, 2021 RAC meeting be approved as presented
   Amanda McCormick, Lucy Lee   CARRIED

   1.2 Minutes: 2021 MAY 06
   MOTION: THAT the minutes from the May 06, 2021 RAC meeting be approved as presented, with changes noted by Lucy Lee in point 5 which should state, "Lucy Lee – has five current students assisting with research, which is being conducted in the Biology-teaching lab, until fall semester"; and edits in 4.3 from Martin Warkentin which should state, "UFV authors do not have to pay a publishing fee for most journals in the Sage Open Access forum ."

   Lucy Lee, Cindy Jardine   CARRIED

2. **DISCUSSION**
   2.1 Research Data Management Update – Jerri-Lynne Cameron
   - Jerri-Lynne gave an update on research data management at UFV.
   - Currently Jerri-Lynne is working with ITS and the Library to find a platform for researchers to store and share data on that will also be consistent with privacy and ethics policies.
   - OneDrive is now available on Canadian servers and is an option that is being looked at.
   - Unfortunately, UFV is unable to use Dropbox as it stored on American servers and subject to the Patriot Act, which goes against BC FIPPA laws.
   - Sync is a dropbox tool that is on Canadian servers. ITS is looking to see if we are able to purchase an institutional subscription, but basic accounts are currently free: https://www.sync.com/canadian-cloud-storage/
   - Cindy Jardine noted that they have used Sync in collaboration projects, but it is not as accepted by other institutions across Canada.
   - Dataverse is a permanent data repository that UBC, SFU and UVIC are considering for a shared venture. Jerri-Lynne is looking to see if UFV would be able to join in the collaboration.

2.2 Cyber Security Updates and Best Practices – Garry Fehr
- The PowerPoint for this presentation is attached.
- Garry presented on cyber security which has become a very important topic for universities during Covid-19.
- Researchers and universities have become targets of state sponsored threats for intellectual property, partnership research, research mentioning Covid-19, and many other factors.
- The biggest state sponsored threats are coming from Russia, China, Iran and North Korea.
- Spam emails are the most common way they are able to access information.
- Working from home also gave an advantage to the threats as there were less protections in place.
- Researchers should be backing up data on a separate device that is not connected to their computer.
- The National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships will be used in the NSERC Alliance funding program when there are partnerships involving the private sector.
- Coming up soon there will be information sessions for researchers that will provide online tools, strategies, and resources.

3. BUSINESS
3.1 Research Collaborations at UFV – speed dating event
- A speed dating event would be a social gathering for researchers and faculty interested in research to learn what others are doing at UFV.
- The speed dating event will be a way for individuals to build collaborations by each individual meeting another for two minutes, introducing what they do, and then moving to the next person.
- The event will take place after Faculty Microlectures in February 2022.
- There is interest in this event, and it will move forward.
- Jerri-Lynne and Satwinder will look into the Slack platform for researchers to share, advertise and promote their work, as well as a way to promote collaborations. Microsoft Teams might also be an option for this, as you can create a page for specific people, share thoughts and documents in a similar way.

3.2 Student Research Assistantships
- How do we publicize and promote research assistant positions for students, and specifically international students?
- Kinesiology did have a system set up where faculty created a quick recorded video discussing their research and what RA positions they had available, which was then sent to UFV International and distributed to students in an email with a link to the videos. It was then up to the student to contact the faculty member if they were interested.
- Another way to promote might be a speed dating event for faculty and interested students.

3.3 Call for Interest: University Press Committee – Garry Fehr
- The RAC is looking for persons interested in resurrecting the UFV University Press.
- The Research Office will support and facilitate the university press but there will need to be editors in charge of each edition.
- The current call is to create a committee to determine themes, initiate a steering committee, and establish processes and guidelines.

- It is intended to be a peer reviewed journal that may also include a student section for fourth year and/or honours students.
- The university press will likely be an online product and the steering committee will be responsible for ensuring processes and timelines are met.
- Interested parties for the steering committee are Christine Elsey, Paul Fontaine, Martin Warkentin, and Mai Anh Doan.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Centres and Institutes Policy 211 renewal EDI and Indigenization training – Garry Fehr
- Policy 211 is up for renewal this spring 2022.
- In the January or March RAC meeting Garry will follow up to see what changes the RAC would like to see. Garry will draft the changes and liaise with the RAC.
- Changes will include EDI and Indigenization.

4.2 Research Strategic Plan Consultations – Garry Fehr
- There were over 1600 responses to the strategic plan consultations.
- Next steps are for the Research Office to review all responses, categorize them into themes, and then Garry will draft the research strategic plan.
- The I+EDI RAC subgroup will advise on the draft plan.
- The draft will also go to an ad hoc President EDI working group, as well as Indigenous Affairs prior to going to the Board of Governors and Senate for final approval.
- The Research Office is hopeful the plan will be completed by January 1, 2022.

4.3 Research Office Report – Jerri-Lynne Cameron
- The report is attached.
- The Research Office will have a new team member on Oct. 4, 2021. Leona Oakman will be joining the team from Alumni Relations as the new Events and Communications Coordinator.
- Jerri-Lynne is currently jointly working on the CRC (Canada Research Chair) Action Plan with an employment systems consultant. This plan will include best practices for equity in hiring and recruiting.
- The CRC Action Plan will be located on the CRC webpage.
- If anyone has ideas for workshop topics, please email Jerri-Lynne.

4.4 Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) Report – Gillian Hatfield
- Forms have been updated. We have a new minimal risk matrix that researchers and the HREB will be using together to determine the level of risk and review: https://www.ufv.ca/research-ethics/guidance-notes/minimal-risk/
- Supervisor sign off is more formalized with a fillable PDF. This is in the ROMEO attachments.
- Consent forms need to have funding sources identified, including internal funding, and financial compensation to the PI will need to be declared. Financial compensation does not include a course release, compensation for expenses, or the hiring of RAs. It only includes compensation for time and expertise and is common for applied industry contracts. Wording has been updated in the template.

- If there needs to be a change in PI on a project we have a form for the current and new PI to complete. The form is on the Research Office website and also requires an amendment in ROMEO.
- The HREB is no longer inviting the researcher to attend the review in an effort to make the reviews more efficient and put less burden on applicants.

4.5 Teaching and Learning Advisory Council Report – Claire Hay (no report)

4.6 Senate Research Committee Report – (no report)

5. Roundtable discussion

Keith Carlson – The Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) is hosting a panel discussion on the Afghan refugee crisis. The online event will be held September 21, 2021 at 12:00pm through Zoom. Geetanjali Gill and Steve Schroeder are leading the panel discussion where speakers will talk about lived experiences of being a refugee and resettling in a new country, as well as the current situation in Afghanistan.

Claire Hay – Claire and Martin Warkentin are part of an open education working group that will be meeting on October 5, 2021. Please email Claire for the link if you are interested in joining.

Cynthia Thomson – Cynthia is working on mind and body recruitment for a project on the treatment of chronic and persistent pain. Please contact Cynthia if you are able to share platforms or other means to share recruitment information.

Lucy Lee – Lucy has been appointed to NSERC's 1502-Biological Systems and Functions Evaluation Group for three years from 2021 to 2023. Lucy's research grant from NSERC has also been extended for three years beyond its expiry of 2022, so there is NSERC funding until 2025 (a total of eight years).

Irwin Cohen – The Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) has published four reports. A fifth report has been posted on the website titled "Examining Police Protest and Conflict Liaison Practices in Canada".

Shelley Canning – The CERA podcast "Gero Nurses: Tales from the Front" has dropped its first episode, and will have a new episode out every first day of the month. You can listen to it here: https://geronurses.podbean.com/.

Satwinder Bains – SASI has produced a report looking at crime prevention and the fallacy that putting kids in organized sports ensures they will stay out of gang life. The report was funded by the Surrey RCMP. Irwin offered to share the publication on the CCJR website for more coverage.

6. ADJOURNMENT – 2:50 pm

6.1 Next meeting: November 19, 2021, 1:30 pm, on Zoom.

Please see Research Newsletters at the bottom of the Research Office website for more information on events and funding opportunities.

National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships

2021.07.16

Threat actors exploit legal means of knowledge development and collaboration to access research for their own purposes

1. <u>Personnel:</u> individuals who have access to knowledge (insider threats; witting and unwitting participants)
2. <u>Physical Security:</u> access to facilities and physical spaces
3. <u>IT/Cyber:</u> technological access
4. <u>Intellectual Property (IP) and Knowledge:</u> rights, licensing and acquisition
5. <u>Collaboration:</u> partnerships can be used either overtly or covertly

Increased foreign threat to COVID-19 research prompts extraordinary warning from Canada's spy agencies
https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/cse-csis-china-covid-1.5570134

Canada's chief spy identifies foreign interference and state-sponsored espionage as biggest threat to Canada's prosperity and national interest
https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/significant-and-clear-threat-what-canadas-spy-chief-says-about-china-behind-closed-doors

Iranian hackers selling stolen academic research
https://endpts.com/iranian-hackers-steal-academic-research-worth-billions-from-us-universities-private-companies/

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Canada

And research security is a growing concern domestically and internationally

CTV NEWS
Phishing attack lures $12M from Alberta university's pockets

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
How China Targets Scientists via Global Network of Recruiting Stations
New study details inner workings of talent recruitment programs linked to misconduct

THE GLOBE AND MAIL*
China's military scientists target Canadian universities

NATIONAL POST
Russian hackers behind recent cyber attacks against Canadian COVID-19 research organizations: CSE

BBC
How hackers extorted $1.14m from University of California, San Francisco

USA TODAY
DOJ: Harvard University professor lied about work for the Chinese government
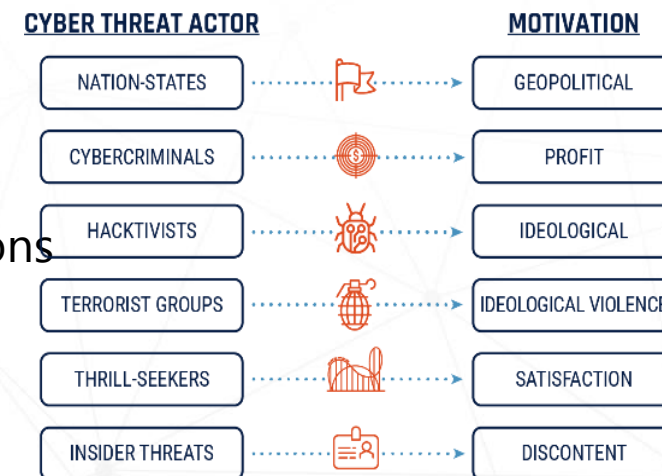
The New York Times
Race for Coronavirus Vaccine Pits Spy Against Spy
The intelligence wars over vaccine research have intensified as China and Russia expand their efforts to steal American work at both research institutes and companies.

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Canada

THE THREAT LANDSCAPE – CCCS National Cyber Threat Assessment 2020

State-sponsored cyber threat actors have the most sophisticated capabilities.

- Cyber espionage, IP theft, online influence campaigns, disruptive cyber attacks
- Greatest threats from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea
- The main concerns to researchers are the nation states and cybercriminals.
- The threat of cyber espionage is almost certainly higher for Canadian organizations that operate abroad or work directly with foreign state-owned enterprises.

CYBER THREAT ACTOR	MOTIVATION
NATION-STATES	GEOPOLITICAL
CYBERCRIMINALS	PROFIT
HACKTIVISTS	IDEOLOGICAL
TERRORIST GROUPS	IDEOLOGICAL VIOLENCE
THRILL-SEEKERS	SATISFACTION
INSIDER THREATS	DISCONTENT

Cyber Threat Bulletin: Impact of COVID-19 on Cyber Threats

- Cyber espionage directed at Canada will continue to attempt to steal Canadian intellectual property relating to COVID-19 vaccine and treatment research.

- Cyber threat actors are identifying individuals working at home and exploiting technologies deployed in support of a remote workforce, such as VPNs.
  - Examples:
    - April 2020: Canadian university engaged in COVID-19 research was targeted by COVID-19-themed phishing attacks attempting to deliver ransomware.
    - April 2020: Canadian bio/pharm compromised by foreign cyber threat actor deploying ransomware and attempting to steal IP.

THE THREAT LANDSCAPE – CCCS National Cyber Threat Assessment 2020

<u>Cybercriminals</u> almost certainly represent the most pervasive cyber threat to Canadian Institutions.

Ransomware and Phishing attacks

What is ransomware? Malicious software that encrypts and prevents access to files, directories and IT

systems (or threatens to delete data / publish data) until ransom is paid.

Consequence: Critical system downtime until ransom paid

- <u>CCCS Cyber Threat Bulletin: Modern Ransomware and Its Evolution.</u>
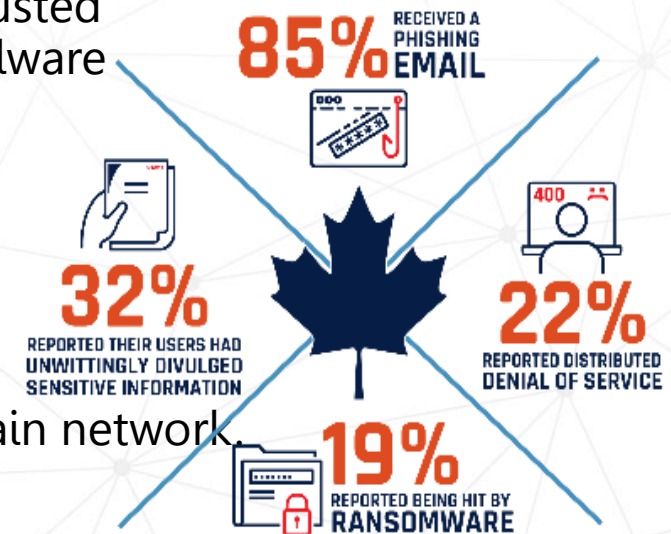
What is Phishing? Malicious cyber actors send emails that pretend to be from trusted organizations in order to deceive recipients into visiting websites that contain malware

Consequence: PI, logon credentials, etc. are stolen

- <u>Don't Take the Bait: Recognize and Avoid Phishing Attacks</u>

⭕ Back up your data!
- Backing up data helps restore information after an attack.
- Ensure backups are stored on a device that is not directly connected to your main network.
- Test your backup regularly.

85% RECEIVED A PHISHING EMAIL

32% REPORTED THEIR USERS HAD UNWITTINGLY DIVULGED SENSITIVE INFORMATION

22% REPORTED DISTRIBUTED DENIAL OF SERVICE

19% REPORTED BEING HIT BY RANSOMWARE

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Canada

Research Security

The Ministers of ISI, Health, and PS asked (March 24, 2021) that national security considerations be incorporated in the funding decisions of Alliance grants that support research partnerships with private sector organizations

1) Under ISI leadership, The Government of Canada – Universities Working Group was consulted with for the development of **National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships.**

2) These Guidelines will be applied initially to the NSERC Alliance funding program when private sector organizations are involved in the partnership.

3) All grant applications that have not yet received a decision (as of July 12th) will be asked to fill the Risk assessment form and submit it to NSERC. All new grant applications will nee to be submitted with the Risk assessment form.

Research Security

The Guidelines will initially apply to the NSERC Alliance program…

1) Grant applications will be assessed as per the normal Alliance program merit assessment process and, in addition, NSERC will review the information provided in relation to research security.

2) The funding decision will take into account both the normal Alliance program merit assessment criteria as well as the research security assessment.

3) Where there are security concerns, NSERC will seek advice from relevant National Security Agencies (Public Safety, Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, …).

4) The research security assessment will be based on the <u>Risk assessment form</u> submitted by researchers as well as the risk mitigation plan if required.

Research Security

The National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships with security risks associated with …

I. **The research area and its potential application for military, public safety, intelligence or espionage purposes**

Examples include: Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Advanced Sensing and Surveillance, Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Energy Generation, Storage and Transmission, Robotics and Autonomous Systems, Energy and Utilities, Information and Communication technology, Advanced Manufacturing.

II. **The Partner organization**

The questions will seek to better understand whether the partner organization is affiliated with governments, militaries, or organizations that could negatively impact Canada's national security, or has been convicted of fraud, bribery, espionage, corruption, or other criminal acts.
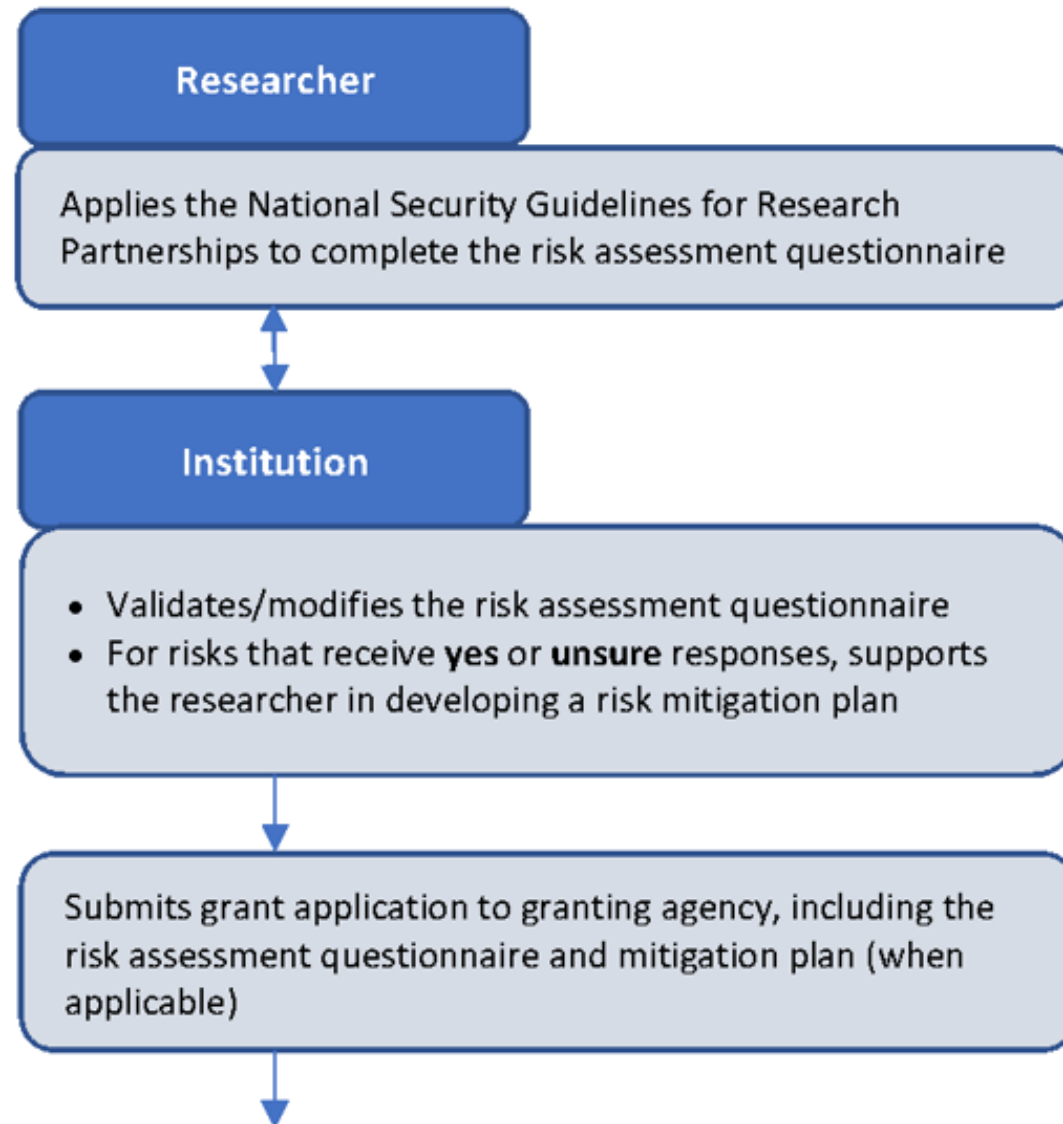
Research Security

What will researchers and institutions have to do?

1) Researchers develop a partnership and prepare their application as normal. Researchers also complete the Risk Assessment Questionnaire to help gauge the risks associated with that particular partnership project.

2) Researchers provide the information requested in the Risk Assessment Questionnaire, to the best of their abilities.

3) If risks identified, researchers work with their institution to develop a plan to mitigate those risks.

4) Institutions need to review the risks associated with the proposed partnership prior to the submission of the grant application.

Research Security

Assessment process

Researcher

Applies the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships to complete the risk assessment questionnaire

Institution

- Validates/modifies the risk assessment questionnaire
- For risks that receive **yes** or **unsure** responses, supports the researcher in developing a risk mitigation plan

Submits grant application to granting agency, including the risk assessment questionnaire and mitigation plan (when applicable)

Research Security

Next steps…

- Information sessions with researchers (dates to be announced shortly).

- Applicants who have not yet received an answer on their grant application will be contacted (along with their institution) to provide instructions on the process of adding the Risk assessment form to their application.

More information?

1) Safeguarding Your Research - https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97955.html
2) National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships
3) NSERC's Alliance Website
4) Questions?   ➡   alliance@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Office of Research Services
RAC Report | September 17, 2021

What We're Up to

- New team member: Leona Oakman - Communications
- New filing/Romeo review
- Strategic Research Plan
- Research Speed Dating event
- CRC EDI Action Plan
- New Workshops/topics
- EDI Resources/Education

Deadlines
- ROSA deadline – October 31, 2021
- Sabbatical applications – November 15, 2021
- SSHRC Explore Grant – October 2, 2021
- SSHRC Insight Grant – October 1, 2021
- NSERC Discovery Grant – November 1, 202
- UFV Accelerate Research Fund **[Internal]**
- UFV Peace and Reconciliation Centre (PARC) Scholarships **[Internal]**
- NSERC Alliance Grants