

November 30, 2022

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## VPR Report to Senate #705 - December 7, 2022

Colleagues, congratulations on getting through a very hectic term with so many successes (including just getting through the term!). I wish us all a pleasant and rejuvenating holiday season before Senate meets again in 2023. First, however, some update items, including some really wonderful news:

## 1. AVPR Reappointment, Dr. Michelle McGinn

I am delighted to announce that Dr. Michelle McGinn has been reappointed as Associate Vice-President, Research of Brock University, for a three-year term to begin January 1, 2023.

Dr. McGinn (Educational Studies) is an influential and highly cited scholar of research practices and ecosystems, and their relationships to researchers' development, careers, writing, and identities. In her role as AVPR, Dr. McGinn has played key leadership roles at Brock in pandemic management, strategic planning, policy development and implementation, especially surrounding the Responsible Conduct of Research, in support for operations and process improvements across the research enterprise, and in the development of capacity and plans for equity, diversity and inclusion in research. At the same time, she has been an effective and valued contributor to national and provincial research bodies and initiatives, representing Brock in a range of ways to COU, NSERC, and SSHRC. Like so many others across the institution, I thank Dr. McGinn for her work as AVPR, and look forward to continuing to work with her.

## 2. UNESCO Chair renewal, Dr. Liette Vasseur

Many congratulations to Professor Liette Vasseur (Biological Sciences), who has been renewed for a four-year term as the UNESCO Chair on Community Sustainability: From Local to Global. I encourage colleagues to read more about Liette's research, international leadership, and reappointment process in [this Brock News article](#). Dr. Vasseur also served as President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO from 2018 to 2021.

## 3. OVIN meeting and follow-up

On November 21, Brock LINC and the Innovation team in ORS hosted representatives from the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network in the Rankin Family Pavilion, along with Brock researchers in Engineering and related fields, to review innovation and skills development programs advanced by OVIN. The same visit included meetings with representatives of the Economic Development portfolio of Niagara Region. Discussions are ongoing regarding prospects for funding or partnerships through OVIN programs.

#### 4. Provincial Commercialization Mandate Policy

Brock University's draft Commercialization Policy came both to Research and Scholarship Policy Committee and to Senior Advisory Council for feedback in November. The policy is required by the Province to be posted by December 15, 2022. This is to be followed by the posting of an Annual Commercialization Plan in February 2023.

#### 5. Advisory Panel on Federal Research Support System

Under the Ministry for Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED), an Advisory Panel on Federal Research Support System was struck this fall to review the structure and operations of the major federal research funding councils. This panel has been conducting meetings and soliciting input from various stakeholders on how the funding councils function and how they might be improved.

It is noteworthy that the panel membership includes academic representatives only from U15 members or universities with a medical school. Both the Ontario Council for University Research (OCUR) and the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU) have urged the Panel to ensure that this representation does not limit the Panel's view of how Canada's funding ecosystem supports small to medium-sized research universities.

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research