



Report to Senate  
April 4, 2018  
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## Report to Senate of the Vice President, Research

### 1. Research Grants and Awards Update

More research award success stories are mounting behind the usual externally-imposed publicity embargoes. In this case, I can at least announce that Brock's success rate in the most recent SSHRC Insight Grant competition was a remarkable 55%, though information about specific grant awards will not be released for some time. This is the highest success rate ever recorded at Brock for this competition, and would be cause for celebration at any university in the country. This result is just one indication of the great depth of research excellence in social sciences and humanities research at Brock University.

### 2. Strategic Planning: Research

The strategic planning process regarding research is under way, with Associate Deans Research currently reviewing and consulting with colleagues on the prioritization, augmentation, and revision of research themes drawn from existing strategic institutional documents, including SMA-2, Vision 20/20, and the Draft 2017 Strategic Plan. This feedback and discussion will inform a schematic strategic plan proposing high-level goals or principles, specific intended outcomes, and the implementations that will plausibly link them. At the same time, I am coordinating with the Provost on other strategic planning elements to ensure that the research component, as it develops, is integrated with the wider academic plan, and is based on sound assumptions about resourcing.

### 3. SHARCNET and HPC

Recent discussions with SHARCNET executive members reconfirmed the university's commitment to supporting and participating in the SHARCNET consortium, and working through it to press for sustainable federal and provincial infrastructure support for High Performance Computing. Recent changes to the organizational structure of SHARCNET, as well as turnover and budgetary reductions among the major federal HPC management bodies, have created short-term funding delays and illustrate the need for a rationalized HPC support strategy. Brock University researchers benefit greatly from access to HPC resources - resources that will become increasingly important as both large data sets and computing-intensive analytics become the norm for more research programs.

#### 4. BrockLINC

The BrockLINC Operations Group held its first meeting on March 29. Group members comprise representatives of the academic activities, programming, and research/innovation units slated to operate in the LINC, including current BioLinc facilitators, the CCOVI AR/VR Consumer Lab, the expanded Makerspace, and the Digital Scholarship Lab. The first meeting saw a roundtable discussion of the functions and anticipated participants or users of these units. Next steps will include canvassing other contributors or participants in the LINC's innovation and entrepreneurship activities; and planning the interrelations and programming that will integrate them.

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