

Report to Senate  
May 16, 2018  
T. Kenyon

## Report to Senate of the Vice President, Research

### 1. OCUR

The April OCUR meeting in Ottawa included updates from Tri-Agency Presidents, detailing new agency approaches and the anticipated effects of the 2018 federal budget. EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness) is the single greatest theme emphasized across the Councils, including CRC and CFI. This will require the Agencies themselves, along with institutions and researchers, to more actively engage and accommodate EDI, as a condition for funding. This is not a new direction, of course, but it represents a stronger and more explicit commitment to addressing the underrepresentation of equity-seeking groups in federally-supported Canadian research.

Significant changes at NSERC include the shifting of NCE (Networks of Centres of Excellence) and CECR (Centres of Excellence for Commercialization) out of the NSERC portfolio, which is unlikely to affect Brock, while collapsing all remaining business-facing partnership programs into a single program, which is more likely to affect Brock. Partnership programs like NSERC Engage and the Collaborative Research and Development (CRD) grants are significant components of Brock's federal grant activity. So we will be watching closely and working with NSERC, through OCUR, to enable a minimally disruptive transition to the new partnership grant architecture. One possible lesson here: researchers considering submitting an Engage grant within the next 12 months might do well to do it in the next 6 months instead.

SSHRC has now started to implement its revised understanding of SSHRC-eligible health-related research projects. This is a welcome fix for the previous gap in funding support for projects deemed too health-related for SSHRC, but too social-scientific to succeed in the CIHR system. This new understanding will continue to be refined and operationalized; researchers should feel free to bring questions about where the line is drawn to ORS.

CIHR continues to stabilize its operations, while seeking both a President and a VPR. The agency is aiming for a stable 14-15% success rate across its programs, having experienced considerably lower rates from time to time in recent years.

The Tri-Agencies expect to introduce a Research Data Management (RDM) policy, perhaps as early as the coming year. This policy will outline obligations for both institutions and researchers to (as appropriate) store, protect, share, and otherwise manage the data generated by federally funded research. The RDM policy is fundamentally aimed at strong scientific practice: reducing the duplication of data-gathering, ensuring replicability and transparency, and promoting open science. Over the next year, it will be important for the

Brock University research community to have a conversation about RDM, and to prepare for working with the policy when it arrives.

## 2. Animal Care Training Program

The VPR's Office is working with Brock's Animal Care Committee, research community, staff, and veterinarians, providing resources to upgrade the training provided to lab users in animal-based research. It is anticipated that the revised program will be on-line in the Fall term.

## 3. Interim AVPR

Professor Michelle McGinn took up her appointment as Interim Associate Vice President, Research, on May 1, 2018: <https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2018/05/vpr-appoints-interim-associate-vice-president-research/>

## 4. BrockLINC Operations Group

The BrockLINC Operations Group has now met three times, and is working towards an integrated operational plan for the LINC, slated to open Fall 2018. The LINC OG has provided updates to the BrockLINC Working Group, to CAD, and to Senate IT&I Committee. A slide deck providing basic background details is attached to this report.

## 5. Match of Minds

Match of Mind award-winners have now been notified. This was a heavily subscribed and successful round, with 60 applications, of which we were able to fund 48. Congratulations to the students and researchers undertaking these research projects.

Tim Kenyon, PhD  
Vice-President, Research