

Report to Senate
September 12, 2018
T. Kenyon

Report to Senate of the Vice President, Research

1. Strategic plan:

Consultations for and drafting of the research element of the Brock University integrated strategic plan have been ongoing over the summer months. Beginning in the Winter term 2018, the Associate Deans, Research, (this group includes a Library representative) consulted with their constituencies regarding a list of key points drawn from existing and past strategic research documents. The VPR consulted also with research staff members for their input. Feedback from these consultations informed the drafting of a new strategic plan by the ADRs group, oriented around long-term aspirations for Brock as a research institution and the short-term action items that will support those aspirations. This draft too has been circulated for further feedback, which is and will continue to be integrated into successive versions of the integrated plan.

At the same time, draft versions of an overall plan (of which research is just one part) have been discussed by the Board, Senate, and a joint Board-Senate group; another joint meeting remains to be held. Revisions to the research plan continue, on the basis of constructive feedback received at all levels.

2. CFI:

Internal CFI proposals are being developed for October submission, on the basis of the Spring round of applications. Institutional CFI envelope has also been reserved to ensure that CRC applicants in 2019-20 have access to infrastructure funds.

3. Canada Research Chairs:

In August, 18 CRC proposals were evaluated for 3 open Tier II positions, 2 NSERC and 1 SSHRC; the selected proposals are now developing advertisements, working with ADRs. It is likely that another that another Tier II CRC position will be available for allocation within the next year.

4. Research staffing news:

In July, Dr. Geoffrey Waters joined Brock University as the Director of the Office of Research Services. An experienced manager with a strong track record of success in research and administration, Dr. Waters comes to Brock from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. His own research background is in the science of controlled environmental systems. It is a pleasure to welcome Geoffrey to the research team at Brock; I invite researchers to introduce themselves to him at their convenience.

Also joining the research team in September is Dr. Randy Peterson, who takes on the role of Business Development Officer in the Innovation and Commercialization portfolio. Dr. Peterson brings a strong scientific background and experience in commercialization to Brock from the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine in Toronto.

I was very happy to welcome Sean Bukovac to the position of Manager, Animal Care in August. Shawn has been part of the research enterprise at Brock University as an Animal Care Technician since 2013. I look forward to working with him in his new role on the Animal Care team of outstanding staff, who work to support outstanding science, research mentorship, and a strong ethos of regulatory compliance at Brock.

Finally, I would like to thank Philip Thomas, Manager of Research Accounting, for his work as Interim Director of the Office of Research Services. Phil stepped up on short notice to take on this role in the winter. I, and all our colleagues, were fortunate to have his insight and leadership as Interim Director.

5. BrockLINC:

Operational planning for BrockLINC continued throughout the summer, with significant progress made on formulating and integrating the draft operational plans of the LINC contributors based in the Rankin Family Pavilion. I'm very pleased to announce that the LINC Operations Group will be chaired by Dan Lynch, who is taking on the role of Special Advisor to the Vice-President, Research. Dan is an experienced leader in innovation, entrepreneurship, and team-building at Brock, where he has served as the Manager of BioLinc while forging strong community connections across Niagara.

Tim Kenyon, PhD
Vice-President, Research