

Report to Senate  
December 12, 2018  
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## Report to Senate of the Vice President, Research

### 1. Strategic plan

The formal approval of the 2018-2025 Brock University Strategic Plan sees the conclusion of campus-wide and community-wide collective planning process for the future of the University. On the research front, this signals the start of much challenging but exciting work for all research colleagues, staff, faculty, and students alike. Through the planning process, Brock colleagues signaled their commitment to such aims as scholarly and creative intensity, excellence, and grant funding; responsive and rationalized research facilitation services; the thoroughgoing integration of research into the operations, governance, and pedagogical mission of the University; and enhanced support for infrastructure, initiatives, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. The implementation of these plans in order to achieve such aims will be a long-term process, requiring the balancing of priorities and the commitment of resources. The research plan is integrated into the wider institutional plan to facilitate those outcomes. I would like to thank the entire Brock community for its input and effort in crafting the research plan, and for the collegial labour that is to come in bringing it to fruition.

### 2. ACCRU membership

Brock University has joined the Association of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU), a national advocacy and collaboration group representing small-to-medium comprehensive research universities. More information about ACCRU is available at: <http://www.accru.ca/>.

### 3. OCUR update

The November meeting of the Ontario Council on University Research (OCUR) was held in Ottawa on November 22. The meeting focused on conversations with representatives of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED), the Tri-Councils, the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) secretariat, and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

### 4. Canada Research Chairs

In early September the VPR's Office learned that Brock University had been awarded two additional Canada Research Chair positions, bringing its total complement to thirteen. Both Chairs were designated CIHR - the first CIHR Chairs ever awarded to Brock. This news

remained under federal embargo until November, however, meaning that the University could advertise for the Chairs, but not celebrate that they were an additional allocation. This good news represents another opportunity for the enhancement of Brock University's research intensity and profile.

The Call for Proposals for three open CRC positions closed on Monday, December 3. In keeping with Brock University's Action Plan, filed with the CRC Secretariat last December, these proposals will be reviewed by the institutional Selection Committee later this month, and proposals selected to begin the recruitment process. As with the three CRC searches currently underway, the new Secretariat requirements for ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion will condition every stage of the recruitment process.

#### 5. Explore/Exchange internal grants

The revised BSIG/BUAF program, now known as Brock/SSHRC Explore and Exchange programs, closed its CFP at the end of November. The new program has a higher funding cap, up from \$5,000 to \$7,000, with the option for an additional \$3,000 supplement.

#### 6. LINC OG

The LINC Operations Group is currently revising a draft Operational Plan. LINC partner units and the LINC OG Chair continue to meet with, and are open to contact from, all campus partners interested in participating in and learning more about the LINC's intended programming and activities.

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