

Report to Senate
November 4, 2019
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Report to Senate of the Vice President, Research

1. Matching and Discretionary Request Portal
 - The web portal for requesting matching funds for research grant applications and discretionary funds for research activities is now active. It is linked from the Research Enterprise mainpage on the Brock University Sharepoint website. The portal provides guidance about types of funded activities, typical ranges of support, and disbursement criteria. Requests for VPR funding should now be directed via the portal.
2. Acting AVPR
 - I am pleased to announce that Professor Dawn Zinga (Child and Youth Studies) will serve as Acting Associate Vice-President, Research, for a six-month term that began in October 2019.
3. AVPR appointment update
 - The appointment process for the Associate Vice-President, Research, is ongoing; the interview phase will take place in November.
4. 2019 Macleans ranking
 - Brock University placed 14 overall in the Comprehensive category of the 2019 Macleans university ranking.
 - Research mainly falls within the Faculty section of the ranking, in which Brock was 10/15.
 - On research metrics in particular, Brock generally ranked consistently with its overall ranking:
 - Faculty awards 10/15;
 - SSHRC grants 12/15;
 - NSERC&CIHR 11/15;
 - Publications and citations 15/15;
 - Total research dollar intake 15/15.
 - These measures are calculated per faculty FTE, with the exception of publications and citations, which represent total number and weighted citation impact, respectively. Macleans justifies this absolute measure for publications, despite noting that it mostly reflects institutional size, claiming that the absolute number of publications reflects general research activity. It is unclear why parity of reasoning would not apply to each of the per capita measures, however.

- Most recommendations from the report of the 2018 Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Macleans Rankings were reflected in the Brock University Strategic Plan 2018-2025, and in the operational planning associated with it. Recommendations to address research intensity, external funding, and research reputation were significant elements of that report. New programming that supports those recommendations includes enhanced matching programs, support for major grant writing, research initiative awards for unfunded submissions to external grant programs, and prominent advertisement for research chair positions. Further opportunities remain to be explored, however, including an institutional strategy for major research honours and awards.