

Report to Senate
December 6, 2019
T. Kenyon

Report to Senate of the Vice President, Research

1. Research celebration
 - The 2019 Brock University Research Celebration took place Tuesday, November 26, 2:00-4:30 pm, in Pond Inlet. The event shared good news about research grants, honours, and awards at Brock over the previous year.

2. Staffing update
 - The Executive Director, Brock LINC, appointment process is now in the final interview phase.
 - Interviews for the AVPR appointment have concluded and the process is now in its final phase.
 - Mission-critical appointments for research support and legal review expertise are ongoing in the Office of Research Services.
 - Staff changes:
 - Dr Josie Reed, Research Officer in the Office of Research Services, retires from Brock University in December 2019. Josie has been a key staff member and supporter of grant applications for science and health-based research at the University. She is greatly respected for her work by researchers, students, and staff colleagues alike, and has played a significant role in the track record of NSERC and CIHR success at the University.
 - Biljana Vasilevska, Research Officer in the Office of Research Services, is leaving Brock University in December 2019. Institutional programs and strategic initiatives, including the EDI Action Plan, have been Biljana's main focus in her role. Applicants to major external grants, including Canada Research Chair and Canada Foundation for Innovation applicants, have benefited greatly from her expertise and attention to detail.
 - I would like to thank both Dr. Reed and Ms. Vasilevska for their outstanding service and dedication to Brock University and its research community.

3. External relations:
 - The November meeting of OCUR took place in Ottawa and included meetings with the Presidents of all Tri-Council agencies. This was the first meeting with OCUR from Dr. Alejandro Adem, the new President of NSERC. There were also deputations from the National Research Council, Natural Resources Canada, and Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada, each of which expressed strong interest in research partnerships and programs.

- The Acting AVPR represented the University at the December meetings of the SSHRC Leaders and ACCRU (the Association of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities) in Ottawa.
4. Draft strategic plan research metrics:
- As part of the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan, many units and divisions at the University are assembling indicators that can be used to track progress towards strategic goals. For the research enterprise, broadly construed, these indicators can be of various types, including qualitative indicators and milestones. They will also include quantitative metrics. The draft set of metrics proposed for tracking purposes is as follows:
 - Total research revenue received (cash basis)
 - Total research grants awarded
 - Total research funding per FTE research faculty
 - Total number of external research grants active
 - Total number of external research grants active per FTE research faculty
 - Proportion of total grant dollars that are Tri-Agency
 - Complete list of award holders by funding agency and program
 - Trend in application success rate for Tri-Agency Funding relative to global success rate
 - Proportion of tenure-stream researchers holding external grants
 - Number of research partnerships with non-academic organizations (industry, govt, NFP, community groups)
 - Number of major external awards to Brock graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.
 - Total overhead received
 - Research publications per year
 - Citations of Brock research publications per year
 - Number of creative events and performances per year
 - Number of patents/patent families held by Brock Researchers
 - These metrics, suitably operationalized, along with qualitative indicators and milestones, are intended as a complex proxy for the Strategic Plan priority item, “Build research capacity across the University.” It may be helpful to note that the metrics are not intended to represent everything that counts as research, nor everything that matters about research, but rather to give a reliable guide to progress towards that overarching goal. That is: would growth along all these dimensions very likely indicate a global increase in institutional research capacity, including in respects not directly measured by them? They are circulated here with an open invitation for feedback on their suitability, possible augmentations of the list, and ways of interpreting or measuring them. Feedback is welcome through the Office of the VPR.