

October 20, 2020
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Report to Senate #683

1. Indirect Costs Policy

The Indirect Costs policy, along with the associated information/FAQ materials and exception form, are now all online. (<https://brocku.sharepoint.com/Research-Services/SitePages/Brock-University-Indirect-Costs-policy.aspx>) At its September 17 meeting, the Research and Scholarship Policy Committee suggested a number of minor revisions to policy wording, which will be implemented in an updated policy in the coming weeks. Feedback on the supporting materials is also welcome, and may be submitted to orsadmin@brocku.ca by email.

2. Town Hall

A Town Hall was held on Friday, September 25, to review progress on priorities in the Brock University Institutional Strategic Plan. The two priorities serving as the focus for this meeting were “Offer a transformational and accessible academic experience” and “Build research capacity across the University.” The slide deck for the research-focussed presentation is attached for information.

3. Institute Directorships

Following consultation with members/advisory board, Dr. Teena Willoughby has been appointed to a 3-year term as Director of the Centre for Lifespan Development Research, and Dr. Debbie Inglis has been appointed to 3-year terms as Director of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute.

4. Intellectual Property Protection

The protection of intellectual property at universities is currently a priority at both the federal and the provincial levels, in different respects.

Federally, the concern is primarily with cyber security, and the prospect that bad actors may attempt to obtain sensitive research information or research funding, perhaps exploiting a time of pandemic-related pressures on organizations and individuals. The federal government has issued guidance in the form of the slide deck included with this report, and online resources such as: <https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/cyber-security-advice-and-guidance-research-and-development-organizations-during-covid-19>.

Provincially, the focus on IP is related to the prospect that opportunities for innovation and economic growth are lost due to the expense and difficulties associated with safeguarding IP through patents and marketing the patented IP effectively to industry partners and other end users. This policy focus is based in part on the recommendations of the Report on Intellectual Property in Ontario’s Innovation Ecosystem, released earlier this

year (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/report-intellectual-property-in-ontarios-innovation-ecosystem>).

5. Acting Associate Vice-President, Research Term

Dr. Dawn Zinga's term as Acting Associate Vice-President Research concludes on October 14. I would like to thank Dr. Zinga for her outstanding contributions in this role, and wish her every success in her work going forward. Dr. Zinga continues in her role as Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Attachment: Town Hall Slides: Research Final