



May 24, 2023

Report to Senate #711 - May 31, 2023

As the summer calls, it's worth reflecting on an important and effective year of Senate engagement with university policy and practices bearing on research. This includes rationalizing and clarifying Brock's policy on postdoctoral research fellows, and the creation of a Distinguished Professor designation to celebrate and recognize remarkable achievement in research leadership. Senate, through the RSPC, also contributed feedback and perspective to operational planning and strategy, such as the Research Data Management Strategy, and Brock's responses to the Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework. These valuable steps and contributions will pay dividends to researchers and to the university community in the future.

Over the coming months, work in support of Brock's research aspirations will not stop; it may in some respects even accelerate, as the respite from most grant agency deadlines provides time to revise and retool our processes. Across all the elements of the research enterprise, key projects will be underway over the summer: event preparations, facilities construction and maintenance, compliance reporting, operational planning, hiring and onboarding, and process reviews. I look forward to reporting on this work at the start of the new academic year.

As to what's been happening since our last quite recent Senate meeting, I'm very pleased to highlight activities in Brock LINC contributing to student experience and skills development. We have seen a significant increase in engagement in Brock LINC programming, reflected in the number of Creativity & Innovation event completions in 2023. This programming is designed to support the Creativity & Innovation domain in the Campus Wide Co-Curriculum. Typically, the rate of completions per year has been fewer than twenty, and usually substantially fewer. This jumped to 50 completions in 2023 – nearly half the total number since 2015.

The Brock LINC will be hosting the next Innovation Social on Tuesday June 6th at 10:30am on the topic of Innovation in the Workplace. This social will discuss changes in workplace flexibility, and the skills that students and job seekers will need to prepare for changing norms in the workplace and recruitment process.

This summer the Brock LINC will be piloting/soft launching a new Brock Freelancer Directory. This is in response to frequent internal and external requests for student talent to support small projects that are not large enough for part-time, full-time or co-op positions. The concept is similar to Fiverr or UpWork, but would be in a simplified directory. The Brock LINC will provide students with training and resources on how to successfully manage freelance

projects. The summertime soft launch will be a test and learn opportunity before an anticipated full launch in September.

Wishing all Senate colleagues a happy, safe, and rejuvenating summer. If I don't see you around campus over the summer, I look forward to seeing you in September.

T. Kenyon