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Report to Senate #691

The arrival of warm weather and longer days is always welcome to professors and students emerging from a long winter of study, teaching, and grading. This year it holds a special significance as COVID-19 transmission rates and hospitalizations gradually decrease, and as the prospect of relatively safe outdoor activities and meetings again emerges. In addition to a few report elements provided below, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all senators a safe and happy summer break.

1. OCUR work on commercialization framework

The Ontario Council for University Research (OCUR) has been engaging closely with the Minister and senior staff of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, as MCU continues to develop a new approach to the commercialization of research. OCUR's emphasis continues to be the importance of recognizing the breadth and heterogeneity of commercialization outcomes; and the key role played by the direct and often local relationships between universities and their partners.

2. External activities

In May I was pleased to accept nomination and election to the Executive of ACCRU, the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities. I continue to serve on the Executive of OCUR.

3. Preliminary metrics and data

As was verbally reported at the last Senate meeting, some early data is available in the aggregation of annual research metrics and in annual reports of research enterprise units. One item of note was the March 31 survey of \$18.8m in research revenue (cash basis) for 2020-21, an increase of over \$4m from the previous year. Another noteworthy point was the observation that the Research Ethics Boards had kept the turnaround time on initial file review to under ten days for its reporting period, which included the onset of pandemic conditions. Many research institutions nationwide expect a 15-20 turnaround, so this is strong performance by REB members in support of their colleagues.

The September report to Senate will include all the key performance indicators for research as outlined in the Research Enterprise Strategic Plan.

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