

April 12, 2022

Report to Senate #699 - April 20, 2022

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### 1. Graduate and other memberships update, Research Centres and Institutes

Centres and Institutes, working with the Vice-President, Research, and the Associate Deans, Research, have undertaken to ensure that their webpages and outreach includes clear and supportive information for graduate researchers, including prospective graduate students, who are interested in participating in Centre/Institute activities. The impetus to undertake this review is credited to the Vice-Provost, Graduate Studies, who observed the important role that these bodies can play in effective graduate recruitment, and in the student experience and interdisciplinary opportunities that students enjoy once their studies begin. This process will unfold at different paces for different Centres/Institutes, but has already taken place for many, and is a future action item for others.

### 2. Compute Canada ends

As of March 31, Compute Canada ceased operations and transferred its functions to the Digital Research Alliance of Canada on March 31, 2022. Compute Canada will wind down its corporate presence altogether soon. Research functions and researcher accounts have been simply transferred over to the Alliance. However, information sources and networking venues such as Twitter and LinkedIn have closed down for Compute Canada, and are now superseded by the Alliance's communications.

### 3. Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework Response

In response to the Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework communication from the Province (VPR Report and Appendix, RSPC February 2, 2022), a draft Commercialization Mandate Statement was shared with Research and Scholarship Policy Committee for feedback and information. This statement is not a policy, but rather a summary of existing institutional policies, priorities, commitments, agreements, resources, and services bearing on the mobilization and commercialization of intellectual property at Brock University. The province has set a mandatory April 29 posting deadline.

### 4. VPR message, General Research Fund

In April I posted a [discussion note](#) on the VPR website, explaining the basic operations and function of the General Research Fund, and how the terms and conditions of this fund affect the process of allocating permission to continue accessing funds that have migrated to GRF. Senators are invited to read and share this information.

### 5. Ontario Life Sciences Strategy

The Province has announced its [Life Sciences Strategy](#), Phase One of which is intended to establish a life sciences council focusing on long-term growth and competitiveness in four subsectors:

- medical technology

- pharma/biotech
- digital health
- personal protective equipment (PPE)

The council membership will be “executives and leaders from the sector... tasked with collaboratively working together on a plan to make Ontario a top hub for innovation growth and life sciences investments.”

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research