

VPR Report to Senate #702 - September 14, 2022

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Colleagues, welcome back to another Fall term, after what was, I hope, an enjoyable and refreshing summer. I look forward to the opportunities the next months will bring.

Over the summer, I was honoured to accept re-appointment as Vice-President, Research. Researchers at Brock and the excellent team of staff colleagues who support them have done remarkable things in recent years; it has been a pleasure to witness this shared success. In keeping with Brock University's Institutional Strategic Plan, I look forward to continuing to support researchers, the staff team in the research enterprise, and the many communities with which Brock research partners.

Moreover, as of August 2022, I now serve as Vice-Chair of the Ontario Council for University Research, the VPRs' arm of the Council of Ontario Universities; and continue on the Executive of the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities. In each of these roles I will continue to represent Brock University and its research enterprise to the best of my abilities.

Below are some items that took place since Senate last met, as well as some items that will be addressed in the coming months.

Canada Summer Games

The Canada Games took place over two weeks in August. This was the focus of [30 Brock University research projects](#) funded through the VPR Canada Games Research Grant program (though it was by no means the end of those projects, many of which continue to run). These projects to date have involved 28 PI researchers, 40 external partners, 82 student participants, and have generated at least 13 exhibitions or performances, 4 articles or books, 8 conference presentations, a video production, and one new product. These activities and outcomes are expected to grow in the months to come.

These research projects were promoted and celebrated on campus, in the Rankin Family Pavilion, and at most major off-campus venues throughout the Games by a team working under the supervision of Dr. Julie Stevens, Special Advisor to the President on the Canada Summer Games. They ran tents and kiosks, with demonstrations, presentations, and excellent outreach materials describing Brock research for the many thousands of audience members and participants attending the Games. Thanks and congratulations to Dr. Stevens and her team for this great work in support of Brock researchers.

Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework

The Province of Ontario's Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework process (included as an Appendix to this report) continues at Brock. In April, following consultation with campus stakeholders, the Office of Research Services posted a [Commercialization Mandate](#)

[Statement](#). This step is to be followed by the introduction of a Commercialization Mandate Policy by the provincially-mandated date of December 15, 2022. My intention is for a draft policy to be available to RSPC for feedback in November.

Brock LINC: Open House and Women in Entrepreneurship

Brock LINC hosted an Open House on June 8, 1-4 pm, in the Rankin Family Pavilion. The featured guest for the event was Brice Scheschuk (Globalive Capital, and Co-founder and CFO of WIND Mobile), who spoke on “Elevating the Craft of Mentorship & Menteeship.”

In July and August 2022, the LINC facilitated conversations with women entrepreneurs in Niagara, representing various stages of entrepreneurship, and a diverse cross-section of businesses. These conversations focused on understanding challenges that women entrepreneurs have faced early in their journeys and uncovering desires for future supports. The resulting feedback and networking will inform LINC programming in support of women entrepreneurs in the coming year and subsequently.

Research Management System

A digital research management system, sourced through eVision, will receive a soft launch in September for the central research enterprise at Brock. This system will support paperless operation and enable the integration of file handling across grant management, research accounting, research ethics, and animal care services. It will also enable better tracking of internal research data and metrics.

Innovate Niagara Partnership

Brock University renewed its annual agreement with Innovate Niagara, the Regional Innovation Centre incorporated under OCI, the Ontario Centre of Innovation. Brock University is a founding partner of Innovate Niagara, and collaborates with it, and with other RICs, on matters of entrepreneurship, community partnership, commercialization, and applied research and innovation.

Advisory Committee, Re/Appointment of the Associate Vice-President, Research

An advisory committee for the appointment or re-appointment of the Associate Vice-President, Research has now been struck. Committee members and a call for campus feedback on the re/appointment process will be announced soon.

Program information sessions

The summer saw a range of research consultations and support sessions organized by staff in the Office of Research Services, including Eric Bergeron of SSHRC in August, and Tom Mikkelsen, President and Scientific Director, and Kirk Nysten, Deputy Scientific Director, both of the Ontario Brain Institute, in July.

NSERC successes

Over the summer, NSERC announcements confirmed the very welcome news that Brock researchers were [awarded over \\$3m in grant funding](#) from the agency. More than two dozen researchers from three different Faculties were funded through the Discovery Grant, Discovery Development Grant, Research Tools and Instruments, and Launch Supplement programs.

Indigenous Research Grants

I am delighted to report also that the second round of the Brock University [Indigenous Research Grant program](#) was adjudicated in June. Grant holders and projects in the current round are:

- Maureen Connolly, Professor of Kinesiology, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, “Decolonizing experiential learning on the Brock University campus: A case study”
- Liam Midzain-Gobin, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, “Indigenous Affordable Housing in Niagara”
- Constance Schumacher, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, “Defining a Good Life: Community Partnerships and interRAI Data”
- Kevin Turner, Associate Professor of Geography and Tourism Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, “The sky is the limit for community monitoring of climate change impacts in Old Crow, Yukon”

Building Better Research 2022-23

The Building Better Research series, programmed jointly by the Library and by ORS, is slated to have 21 presentations in 2022-23, its highest number yet. This outstanding series promotes research education, knowledge-sharing, and skills development. This year the series will include multiple sessions on Indigenous-themed research, along with formal OCAP training for participants. OCAP stands for ownership, control, access, and possession: key elements of the authority that First Nations communities are entitled to exercise over research data and data collection processes relating to themselves. For more information about BBR, contact Nicole Nolan, Acting University Librarian, or Jayne Morrish, Knowledge Mobilization Officer in the Office of Research Services.

Research EDI colleague joins the research enterprise

I am pleased to welcome Syna Thakur to the Office of the VPR. She joins as the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion In Research Advisor, supporting the understanding of EDI across the research enterprise, Brock’s CRC EDI Action plan processes, and facilitating the development of increasingly significant EDI components of grant applications.

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research