

April 14, 2021

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## Report to Senate #689

With the warmer weather and sunshine of spring buoying spirits, it is a pleasure to share some information items about the research enterprise. One comment I would share in particular bears on the final item listed below.

I received a lot of enthusiastic feedback regarding Brock's involvement with Birds Canada and the Motus Network from colleagues whose research touches on biology and wildlife in a wide range of ways. The idea for this collaboration came from an unsolicited suggestion offered via email by a retired Brock professor. This is a great illustration both of the significance of the extended community of Brock researchers, and of the continued contributions that retired colleagues make to the research enterprise.

#### 1. Portage to NDRIO

As of April 1, 2021, the Portage Network of research support platforms, tools, and training opportunities has been folded into NDRIO. Portage was developed and managed in partnership with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

#### 2. Research Security Policy Statement

On March 24, 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED) released an [updated policy statement on research security](#), jointly with the Ministries of Public Safety and Health. The statement reiterates much of [the policy statement of the previous September](#).

#### 3. Some recent outreach and representation activities

- Ontario Council for University Research Executive: Jan. 14, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 1
- Ontario Council for University Research: Jan. 21, Feb. 25, Mar. 25
- Special OCUR/COU meetings: IP Working Group Jan. 26; Tri-Council Heads to discuss EDI/COVID Feb. 16; Secretariat for Responsible Conduct of Research Feb. 25
- Economic Development Office, Niagara Region Mar. 22
- Economic Development Office, City of Burlington Mar. 23
- McConnell Foundation Community Dialogue, "Building Back Stronger" Mar. 31

#### 4. Responsible Conduct of Research report

Under Brock University's [Responsible Conduct of Research Policy](#), a breach is defined as any action that is determined to be inconsistent with the expectations for responsible conduct of research as outlined in the Policy.

Intent and impact are not relevant in determining the existence of a breach, so this is a category that includes many trivial and inadvertent cases. Intent and impact are considered in determining the appropriate recourse to an identified breach. Breaches that

are committed knowingly, and those which have a significant impact on the public or the research community will attract the most serious recourses.

For example, even though each of the following would be considered a breach, omitting one publication on a CV or failing to cite one reference in a grant application is treated very differently than intentionally falsifying or fabricating research data, or recruiting human participants without disclosing the risks to which they will be exposed.

Brock University responds to inadvertent minor breaches through non-disciplinary educative action (e.g., reminders about policy requirements or redirection to educational resources). Intent and seriousness of a breach would affect any disciplinary action to be taken by the University.

Calendar year	RCR allegations received	RCR breaches confirmed	Breaches resulting in educative action	Breaches resulting in disciplinary action
2018	9	6	6	0
2019	5	3	3	0
2020	5	4	4	0

#### 5. Insight Grant results

Specific results remain embargoed, but I can share that Brock researchers received seven SSHRC Insight Grants in the 2020/21 round, with awards totaling roughly \$900,000. I look forward to sharing further details when the results are made public.

#### 6. Provincial lockdown

In response to provincial lockdown measures, the University has returned to a hybrid version of Pandemic Level Brock 1. Virtually all ongoing research access authorizations have remained active under this approach, in light of the existing safety protocols under which they were approved.

#### 7. Motus network

Brock's scientific collaboration with Birds Canada, providing infrastructure support for the Motus wildlife tracking network, has now been confirmed and finalized. A tracking antenna array will be installed on the roof of the Plaza building.



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