

VPR Report to Senate #693 - October 27, 2021

1. Funding news

Three Brock University researchers have received funding for [community partnership research projects](#), under Partnership Engage Grant program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Teams led by Dr. Charles Conteh (Political Science), Dr. Monique Somma (Educational Studies), and Dr. David Fennell (Geography and Tourism Studies) received more than \$55,000 in total, to support community-engaged research on Indigenous “smart tourism” capacity, safe and affordable housing for women, and well-being for students, all with local partner organizations. This represented a 100% success rate for Brock proposals in this SSHRC-PEG application round.

2. Brock University in national research events

The Canada Foundation for Innovation Annual Board meeting will be co-hosted in November by Brock University and Niagara College. Held virtually this year, the meeting will feature video presentations of Brock CFI-based research, facilities, students, and partners.

Also in November, Brock University is a major sponsor of the Entomological Society of Canada and Entomological Society of Ontario’s Joint Annual Meeting (theme: Strength in Diversity). Notionally scheduled to be held in Niagara Falls, the [ESC-ESO conference](#) will be held online this year.

In December, Brock University will virtually host this year’s CARA conference, the annual meeting for the Canadian Association of Research Administrators. Brock research staff, many of whom are CARA members, are taking a leadership role organizing the program.

3. Omni consortium print access system

University Librarian Mark Robertson contributes the following wonderful news: “In 2019 Brock Library implemented Omni, a new discovery tool for library collections. Omni is collaborative infrastructure shared with 16 Ontario academic libraries through the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL). One of the promises of Omni is in deeper sharing of library collections across participating OCUL members. We are now seeing the benefits of this collaboration coming to fruition. In late summer, the Library turned on a new feature that allows Brock researchers to automatically see and request print collections across 16 Ontario university libraries. This means that nearly 23.5 million print library resources are now at the fingertips of the Brock community. More information on this initiative is available in [this Brock News article](#).”

4. AVPR on COU Space Group

Associate Vice-President Research Michelle McGinn has been confirmed as the OCUR representative on the Council of Ontario Universities’ Task Force on Space Transformation. This task force was struck to review new approaches to space and capital planning on

campus. It is a cross-functional group that takes an institution-level view of space planning to incorporate the perspective and needs of different user groups, including research functions in university space.

5. Intellectual property discussions with Province

Discussions continue between representatives of Ontario's universities and the provincial government regarding the Ontario Health Data Platform's anticipated IP handling, and the broader Ontario IP/commercialization strategy. The province hopes to ensure that research data and innovations supported by Ontario have commercial or economic impact that benefits Ontarians. The university sector is working with the province to ensure that any measures introduced with the intention of bringing about those results are consistent with existing intellectual property provisions, and principles of fairness and sound operation. Universities continue to press for an open, nimble approach to sponsored research and commercialization, avoiding needless red tape and encumbrances apt to discourage innovation.

T. Kenyon, Vice-President, Research