

# FGSR Council Meeting

---

**June 17, 2020**

# Agenda:

## Updates/Discussion – Graduate studies, Research (informal format)

---

- Graduate Studies:
  - REPORT: Grad Studies Officer (Applications, Enrolments, Scholarships)
  - SMU-approved program changes achieving & awaiting MPHEC approval
  - Policies/procedures for thesis-required programs: policy dev. Committee – will get it going!
  - Status of moving to fully online graduate applications
  - Q&A / Discussion
- Research:
  - Status of Strategic Research Plan renewal (stalled!!) PLUS Canada Research Chair EDI Action Plan
  - Support for Indirect Costs of Research (TriAgencies – RSF, GRF; Contract Overhead)
  - REPORT: Research Grants Officer
  - REPORT: Office of Innovation and Community Engagement, CLARI
  - REPORT: Research Ethics Board update
  - SMU Undergraduate Summer Research Award “harmonized application” programs
  - Recent SMU Tri-Agency Grant results
  - Return to Research status
- Any other items: Questions & Discussion

# Intro/Reminder: FGSR Office staffing and roles

---

## **Dr. Adam Sarty**

Dean & Associate Vice President  
Research

## **Shane Costantino**

Assistant to the Dean

## **Dr. Colleen Barber**

Associate Dean  
Student Affairs

## **Tanya Carroll**

Graduate Studies Program  
Assistant

## **Heather Gray**

Graduate Studies and  
Scholarship Liaison Officer

## **Leah Ray**

Graduate Studies and  
Scholarship Liaison Officer

# Intro/Reminder: FGSR Office staffing and roles

---

**Margaret Schenk**

Research Grants Officer

**Orshy Torok**

Research Ethics Officer

## *Office of Innovation and Community Engagement*

**Kevin Buchan**

Director

**Danielle Goodfellow**

Industry Liaison Officer

**Vanisa Omicevic**

Research Office Assistant

## *Change Lab Action Research Initiative (CLARI)*

**Ray MacNeil**

CLARI Network Manager

# Graduate Studies Officer Report

**FGSR Faculty Council**

**17 June 2020**

# 2020 FGSR Admissions As of June 10, 2020

**1396 Applications Received to Date** (April 29, 2019 = 1400) (April 20, 2018 = 1154)  
(April 18, 2017 = 907)

**203 Domestic** (April 29, 2019 = 148) (April 20, 2018 = 148) (April 18, 2017 = 189)

**1193 International** (April 29, 2019 = 1252) (April 20, 2018 = 1006) (April 18, 2017- = 718)

**497 Offers of Admission Have Been Sent to Date**

(April 29, 2019 = 436) (April 20, 2018 = 402) (April 18, 2017 = 307)

In addition, 19 Offers of Admission Have been Deferred to 2021  
and 84 Offers of Admission Have been Declined.

# Total Number of Graduate Students

- As of April 2020 there were **547** Registered Graduate Students at Saint Mary's University

*(that is down from where we have been in past...have been up to ~650)*

Master of Finance	83
Master of Science - Comp Data	70
Master of Science - App Sci	54
Master of Business Admin	45
Master of Tech Entr Inno	36
Doctor of Phi - Management	29
Master of MGMT Cooperatives	27
Doctor of Phi - App Science	22
Master of Science - App Psy	22
Master of Arts - WGST	19
Executive Master of Bus. Admin	18
Master of Applied Economics	15
Doctor of Phi - Industrial Org	13
Master of Arts - IDST	12
Inter Master of Teach English	11
Master of Bus Admin CPA	11
Master of Arts - ACST	10
Master of Arts - GEOG	10
Master of App Health Serv Res	8
Master of Arts - HIST	6
Doctor of Phi - Interna Dev St	5
Master of Science -ASTR	5
Doctor of Phi - Astronomy	3
Master of Arts - CRIM	3
Master of Arts - RELS	3
Visiting	3
Master of Arts - PHIL	2
Post-Bacc Cert App Economics	2

# Enrolment by program as of April 2020

# External Student Funding 2020-21

## SSHRC

7 SMU graduate students were offered J. Armand Bombardier CGSM Scholarships (\$17,500 each over 1 year)

1 SMU graduate student was offered a SSHRC CGSD3 Scholarship (\$35,000 per year for 3 years)

# External Student Funding 2020-21

## NSERC

3 SMU graduate students were offered Alexander Graham Bell CGSM Scholarships (\$17,500 each over 1 year)

2 SMU graduate students were offered NSERC CGSD3 scholarships (\$35,000 per year for 3 years)

# External Student Funding 2020-21 CIHR

1 SMU graduate student was offered a Frederick Banting and Charles Best CGSM Scholarship (\$17,500 over 1 year)

# External Student Funding 2020-21 Research NS

Research Nova Scotia- Scotia Scholarships have been offered to 7 SMU graduate students in the amount of \$56,000.

# External Student Funding 2020-21 NSGS

Nova Scotia Graduate  
Scholarships will be offered  
to SMU graduate students in  
the coming months in the  
Amount of \$335,000.

# 2019 Graduates

(300 in total)

## January 2019

82 Graduate Students

## May 2019

77 Graduate Students

## September 2019

141 Graduate Students

# SMU-Approved Programs Approved & Awaiting MPHEC Approval

---

## **APPROVED New Programs:**

- PhD in Business Administration (Accounting)
- PhD in Business Administration (Finance)

## **APPROVED Program Changes:**

- MBA (CPA stream)
    - change from part-time to full-time; shorter duration
  - MA Geography
    - addition of co-op option
-

# SMU-Approved Programs Approved & Awaiting MPHEC Approval

---

## **New Program Approved at SMU and Awaiting MPHEC approval:**

- Executive Doctorate of Business Administration (eDBA)
- 

## Ideas under Active Consideration:

- Master of Business Analytics program (MBAN)
  - NOI submitted to FGSR in early 2019 – well-developed proposal
  - Concept approved through Sobey School Exec/Council
  - Moving to next steps w/ FGSR (external reviewers)
- Master of Engineering Management
  - NOI submitted, development of more full proposal happening actively now (idea has been around for 1-2 years)

# Policies/procedures for thesis-required programs

---

- We've raised this for past year, and committed to having an FGSR sub-committee do a policy review, but we are stalled right now ... Will revive asap.
- **Thesis-required programs:**
  - Assignment of thesis supervisors and supervisory committees
  - Thesis defence guidelines around remote participation
  - Importance and timing of progress reports for thesis students
- *NOTES: - ongoing fully-remote "zoom" defences  
- looking into support for students that need to extend (due to COVID19 delays)*

# Status of moving to fully online graduate applications

---

This has been an ongoing project for 4-5 years! ... BUT:

## **IT IS HAPPENING!!!**

- As reported at last December's Council:  
SMU made a decision (finally!) to invest in upgrading several key areas of institutional software – and the first component that was approved last fall is **“CRM-Recruit”** (from Ellucian, the “Banner” company)
- **“CRM-Recruit”** will provide a web-portal for the full recruitment-to-application-to-acceptance experience for students (graduate and undergrad)
- **“rapid implementation team”** has been working hard with lots (and lots!) of input (and time!) from FGSR's Heather Gray to ensure the full grad application/review/recommendation/acceptance process is implemented: **PAPERLESS!**
- FGSR's Leah Ray and Tanya Carroll are now spending time with the team getting trained and up-to-speed ... Will lead GPC training **FOR THE FALL!!**

# Graduate Studies

---

- **QUESTIONS / DISCUSSIONS?**

# Research Updates and Discussion

---

- **Status of Renewal of Strategic Research Plan:**

- Online consultation/discussion opportunity completed
- Workshop to look at those results held
- Completing text analysis of contributed experiences
- Will develop all of this into a new Draft Plan over coming weeks; opportunity to see and comment by end of summer.

- **Tangentially Related:**

- CRC program, and EDI
- Indirect Research Support Agencies:
  - Research Support Fund (RSF)
  - Grant Recovery Funds (GRFs)

**This is a Slide from FGSR  
Council in Spring 2019 ...  
1 year ago ...**

# Research Updates and Discussion

---

- **Status of Renewal of Strategic Research Plan:**
  - Online consultation/discussion opportunity completed
  - Workshop to look at those results held
  - Completing text analysis of contributed experiences
  - Will develop all of this into a new Draft Plan over coming weeks; opportunity to see and comment by end of summer.

**Unfortunately...  
This project has not  
Progressed.  
Good Intent is that what  
was said a year ago  
should be applied now:  
Draft Plan by September**

**This is a Slide from FGSR  
Council in Spring 2019 ...  
1 year ago ...**

# Research Updates and Discussion

---

## Canada Research Chair (CRC) Program, and CRC EDI Action Plan:

- CRC Public Transparency page just updated this week
  - FGSR site -> Research -> CRC Program
  - Our current 9 CRCs listed in posted spreadsheet, with their terms
  - When Dr. Attig completes 2<sup>nd</sup> term Dec 31, that Chair will not be re-filled (as previously reported: we've "lost" a Chair)
  - Next open CRC: following Dr. Friddell's 2<sup>nd</sup> term (Jun 2022)
- Updated (latest version) CRC EDI Action Plan posted
  - Overviews supports for CRCs, and new method for determining discipline/area of open Chair positions – with choice based on proposals from departments/programs/groups-of-faculty with attention to SRP and EDI priorities

# Research Updates and Discussion

## Support for Indirect Costs of Research

---

- from TriAgencies (NSERC/SSHRC/CIHR):
  - Research Support Fund (RSF)
    - ~40% of our total eligible TriAgency direct research grants
    - ~\$1M put toward supporting research (*e.g. RGO, REO, Research Accountants, and more*)
  - Grant Recovery Funds (GRFs)
    - Provided via unused funds left over when faculty grants expire
    - These funds end up getting utilized for various research-support programs (e.g. FGSR international travel grant)
    - TriAgency policy requires spending at least 50% of balance every fiscal year ... Now, with SSHRC and NSERC allowing grant extensions, there will be no “refill” into GRFs for a couple years...
- from Research Contract “overhead”
  - Important source; looking at updating/simplifying current policy

# Report of the Research Grants Officer

June 17, 2020

# Research Committee 2020

- Met to discuss Internal Faculty Research Grants.
  - Started with budget crunch: many more New Faculty Grants in 2019 than budgeted for – “borrowed” from 2020 budget.
  - Entered Fiscal Year (April) with additional budget pressures due to uncertainty from COVID-19 effect.
  - One New Faculty Grant awarded  
41 Established Research applications – 18 recommended (disbursement of funds currently “on hold”)
- 3 Supplementary International Conference Participation Travel Grants
  - Only for those already traveled

# President's Award for Excellence in Research

- Will email out the Call for nominations to be submitted to the nominee's faculty Dean
  - Research Committee will need Dean's nominations by Aug 21.
- Criteria are Productivity, Creativity, Influence and Impact, Recognition

# Office of Innovation and Community Engagement

Faculty Council, June 17, 2020



# CLARI



# CLARI

Change Lab Action Research Initiative

# CLARI Highlights

INVESTMENT	2018	2019	2020 (to date)
Number of Projects Funded	8	19	18
Total Project Funding	\$ 58,135	\$ 137,169	\$ 133,258
Total Funding to Student Engagement	\$ 36,667	\$ 101,360	\$ 103,935
Proportion of Funding to Student Engagement	63%	74%	78%
Faculty Investment (estimated hrs/project)	100	100	
Student Investment (estimated hrs/project)	220	200	

\$150,000 just awarded from the Province for new projects (Jan 2020)

# CLARI Project Funding

- Connect
  - Build, support and grow Action Research Network in NS, with community, post-secondary partners
- Funding
  - Recent call led to 18 projects funded
  - COVID-19 call resulted in 3 COVID related projects
  - Next date for proposals will be in late summer for the fall term.

# OICE Recent Highlights

\$1,688,0861 in research contracts awarded since last Faculty Council Meeting (December 2019)

- Covid Funding
  - Springboard Atlantic; Research Nova Scotia; ACOA
- Parks Canada
- NS Voucher awards (2)
- NRC IRAP renewed
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Parks Canada
- Mitacs ~ \$500,000

# Office of Innovation and Community Engagement

Kevin Buchan, Director  
kevin.buchan@smu.ca

Danielle Goodfellow, Industry Liaison Officer  
danielle.goodfellow@smu.ca

Vanisa Omicevic, Coordinator / Research Office Assistant  
[OICE@smu.ca](mailto:OICE@smu.ca)

Ray MacNeil, CLARI Network Manager  
Ray.macneil@smu.ca



Thank you



# Research Ethics Board (REB)



One University. One World. Yours.

# Making requests to the REB during COVID-19 pandemic

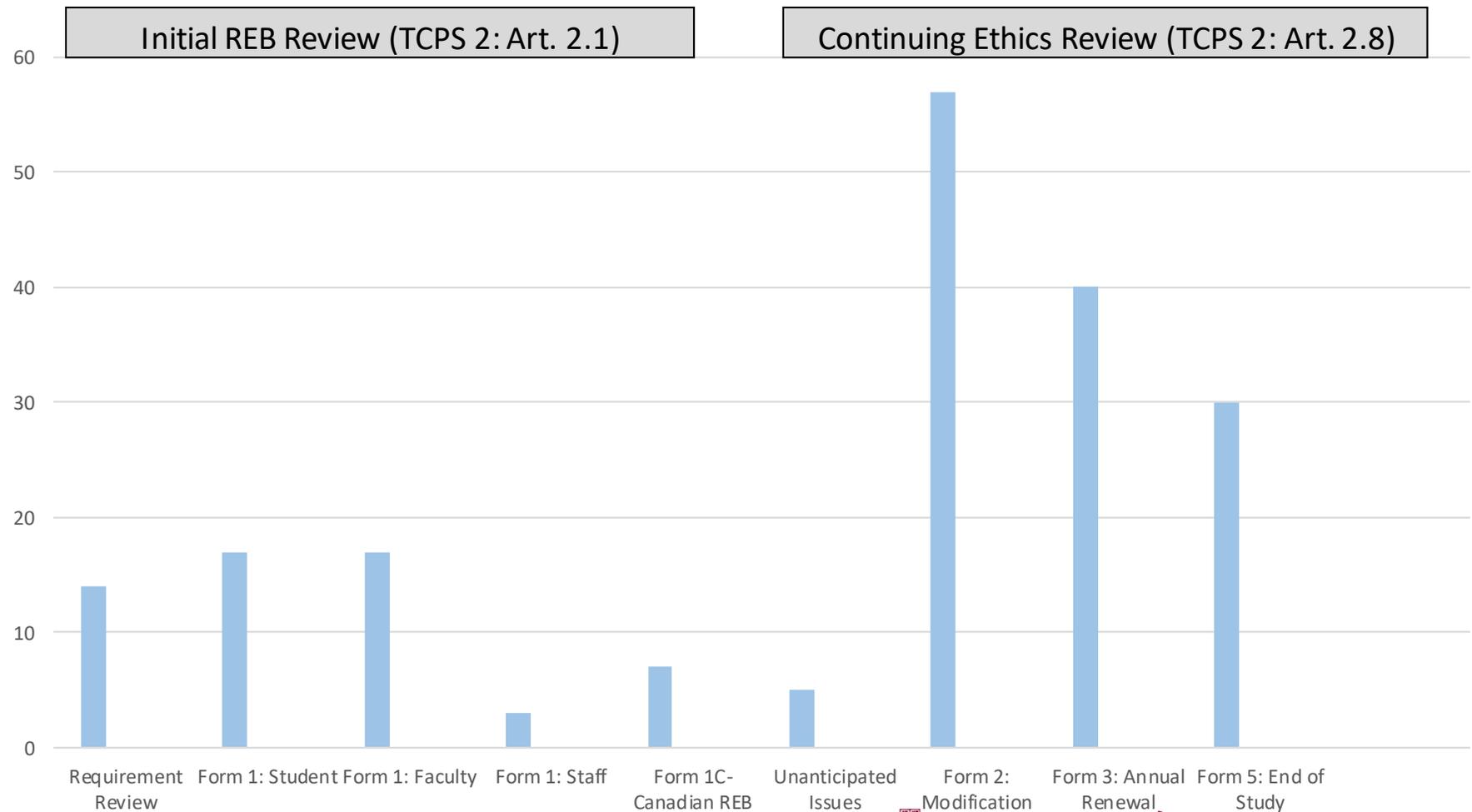
- Electronic submissions of new applications go to [ethics@smu.ca](mailto:ethics@smu.ca) (as of September 2019)
- Information about submitting new applications is provided on the home page and the “Forms” page of the REB website
- The email application receipt applicants receive from [ethics@smu.ca](mailto:ethics@smu.ca) includes information on the current process as it relates to COVID-19 pandemic
- Reach out to [ethics@smu.ca](mailto:ethics@smu.ca) with your questions

(The process is not different.)



One University. One World. Yours.

# Initial and Continuing Research Ethics Review Requests Winter 2020



TCPS 2: Art. 2.2,2.2.2,2.4,2.5

Art. 2.1, 6. 10, 6.11, 6. 12, 6. 13, 6.17

Art.6.15

Art.6.16

Art.6.14

Art.6.14

RESEARCH



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

# Information to researchers and supervisors

- An updated version of the sample Informed Consent Form is live on the REB website to better guide with the learning and preparation stages of setting up draft consent forms to individual/group research participants so that the draft work incorporates the **TCPS 2, Art. 3.2. Consent Shall Be Informed** elements in the proposal
- The REB received 23 incomplete applications for initial research ethics review in January. 3 Acting Chairs, Dr. Nicolas Roulin, Dr. Jim Cameron and Dr. Kevin Kelloway assisted with 12 proposals during this time with the work flow. Thank you!
- Overall, the SMU research community continues to excel in submitting timely and well-prepared annual status reports and end of study reports responding to the REB's first and final courtesy reminders well. Thank you!
- The REB received 12 COVID-19 relating research applications. We are happy to assist.
- An additional set of guidelines have been developed to assist researchers with their Continuing Research Ethics Review responsibilities. This is to help with understanding whether a researcher needs fresh REB review and clearance (via Form 2- Request for Changes to Cleared Research) for alterations or additions researchers wish to or need to make because of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

# Incoming Committee Members

## Chairs:

Dr. Leanna Closson	Psychology	Co- Chair
Dr. Kevin Kelloway	Psychology	Co-Chair
Dr. Eric Henry	Anthropology	Vice Chair

## Winter term new-to-us members:

Dr. Mohammed Al-Hamdani	Psychology	Faculty
Dr. Jim Cameron	Psychology	Faculty
Dr. Diane Crocker	Criminology	Faculty
Ms. Gena Dufour	Psychology	Student
Dr. Min-Jung Kwak	Geography and Environmental Studies	Faculty
Prof. Luke MacDonald	Engineering	Faculty
Dr. April Mandrona	Art Education (NSCAD)	Faculty
Dr. Ron Russel	Biology	Faculty
Dr. Tatjana Takseva	English	Faculty



One University. One World. Yours.

# Consider joining the REB Team

The committee continues to look for members from departments it receives applications:

- All Sobey School of Business
- Anthropology
- International Development Studies
- Religious Studies

Interested faculty can express interest at [ethics@smu.ca](mailto:ethics@smu.ca)



One University. One World. Yours.

# Undergraduate Summer Research Awards

## Harmonized Application process

---

- **In an effort to make applying for an undergrad summer research award as easy as possible for students – removing the barrier of needing to *a priori* know/talk to a professor about it – this year we were able to harmonize all Award program into one application portal**
- Done with the invaluable help of Vanisa O (FGSR Research Office Assistant), and the help of Adam Daniels (Student Services) to establish the portal with us.  
AND  
With support of MANY faculty members who became part of the process by volunteering to be a research supervisor if students got an Award
- 34 Awards given out:
  - NSERC USRA (16)
  - Dean of Science (5), Joint Deans Award Sobey/Science (1)
  - First Year Awards (5)
  - SSHRC Explore (7)

# Undergraduate Summer Research Awards

## Harmonized Application process

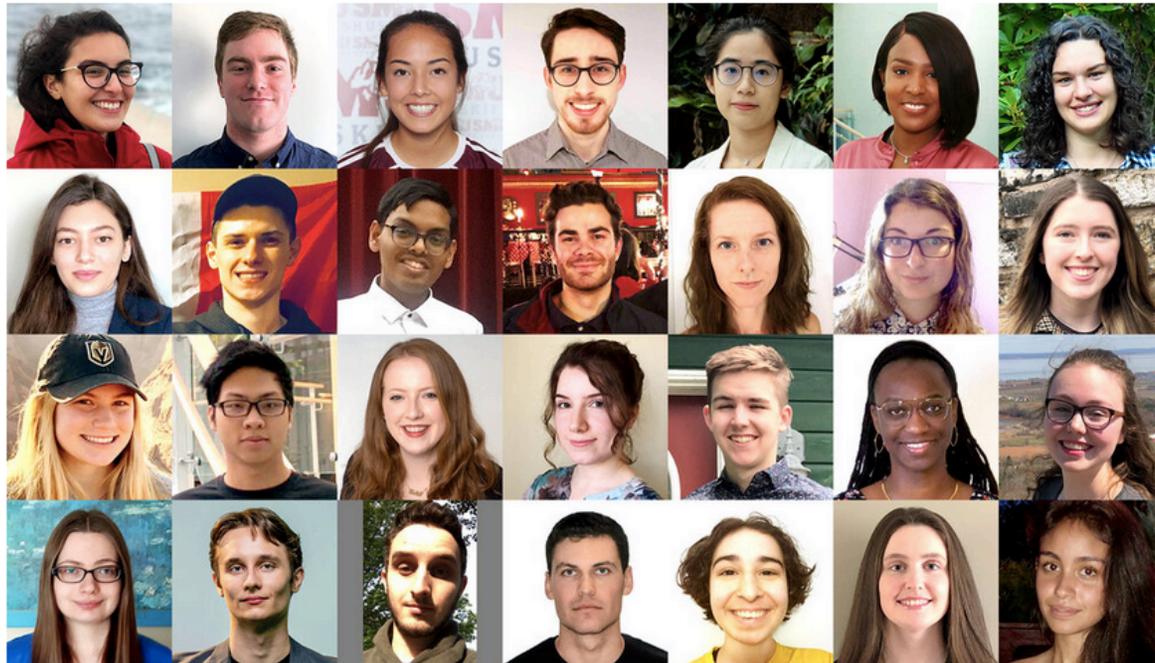
---

- **Check great News story on SMU Web page (SSHRC noticed and contacted me!):**  
<https://news.smu.ca/news/2020/5/15/top-undergraduates-win-awards-for-paid-summer-research-work-at-smu>

Top undergraduates win awards for paid summer research work at SMU

May 15, 2020

← Share



# Recent TriAgency Grant Results

---

- **NOTE: A full report of all received External Research grant & contract funding from Sept 2019– Sept 2020 will be Highlighted at our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Research Recognition Event in October to review and recognize all grant winners ... This was intended this year to be widely publicized for general attendance – which we will still do, but it will be “zoom” 😞**
- **Recent SSHRC Insight Grant results:**
  - 13 applications submitted ...  
3 Successful:
    - **Blake Brown** (History)
    - **Camilla Holmvall** (Management / Psychology)
    - **Cathy Driscoll** (Management)
- *10 applications were submitted to the last IDG competition (no results yet)*

# Recent TriAgency Grant Results:

## NSERC Discovery (“operating”) Grant

---

- 11 applications submitted, 9 Successful!
  - **Early Career Researchers (extra supplement):**
    - David Chiasson (Biology)
    - Vincent Henault-Brunet (**Astronomy** & Physics)
  - **Development Grant:**
    - Linda Campbell (Environmental Science)
  - **Accelerator Supplement**
    - Gregory Christian (Astronomy & **Physics**)
    - Marcin Sawicki (**Astronomy** & Physics)
  - **Discovery Grants:**

Gregory Christian (Astr/**Phys**)      Marcin Sawicki (**Astr**/Phys)      Jason Masuda (Chem)  
Vincent Henault-Brunet (**Astr**/Phys)      Luigi Gallo (**Astr**/Phys)      David Chiasson (Biol)  
Stavros Konstantinidis (Math/**CS**)      Sam Veres (Engineering)

# Recent TriAgency Grant Results

---

## **2019 New Frontiers in Research Fund – Exploration**

*“Supporting Youth with Mental Health Conditions using Machine Learning and Analytics”*

Michael Zhang (PI), Steven Smith (co-PI), + 11 other SMU faculty (all 3 Faculties!)

## **CIHR Covid-19 Rapid Response grant program**

*“Organizational Response to Disease Outbreak”*

Kevin Kelloway (PI) + former-SMUdents-now-profs

-----

## **Research Nova Scotia Health Coalition – Covid-19 grants**

3 grants to SMU-led groups:

Yigit Aydede (Economics), Debra Gilin (Psyc), Christa Brosseau (Chem)



# Start of review of various research policies with Financial Services

---

- Changes coming to TriAgencies financial oversight rules
  - Principles-based accounting / eligibility decisions
- Review of research / expense / travel policies underway now, with Financial Services

**This is a Slide from FGSR  
Council in December 2019 ...  
Status unchanged.  
(but wanted a reminder)**

# Research Data Management

---

**This is a Slide from FGSR  
Council in December 2019 ...  
Status unchanged.  
(but wanted a reminder)**

- New TriAgency policy statement coming soon
- Will require a Research Data Management Plan
- Have access now to Portage's RDMP Assistant tool
- Our RDM expert – Peter Webster
- We will have info sessions / workshops in the future

# Return to Research Status

---

Process and Good Info/Guidance provided at “Return to Research” part of Virtual University webpage

- **First Phase** (Covid-19 related research, field research)
  - Announced on May 22
  - Applications received by end of Monday each week get reviewed through that week; *good discussions as needed between applicant and review team through the week*
  - Approval generally finalized by the following Tuesday (8 day process)
  - Over 3 weeks:
    - 21 approved projects (for 15 PI's) ...  
73 individual researchers (faculty, students, staff)
- **Second Phase** (on-campus research requiring laboratory facilities)
  - Hoping to be able to **Announce by week's end**

# Research

---

- **QUESTIONS / DISCUSSIONS?**