FGSR Council Meeting

April 29, 2019

Agenda
(more informal format for this FGSR Council meeting)

- Graduate Program Changes / New Programs
  - o Co-op Option for MA Geography
  - o New Accounting and Finance streams in PhD Management
- Discussion of reviewing various FGSR Policies & Procedures
  - o 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
  - o Updating FGSR committee structure (and getting members!)
  - o Status of moving to fully online graduate applications
- Ideas for renewal of prof. development workshops/courses (students and faculty)
- Research updates and discussion
  - o Status of Strategic Research Plan renewal
  - o Research Funding:
    - OICE/CLARI, Internal opportunities, and discussion of criteria/principles for various programs
- Support for external grant/contracts, and recent faculty results
  - o Start of review of various research policies (with Financial Services)
    - Initiated with Financial Services – changes coming to TriAgency rules
  - o Research Data Management

Brief General Introduction

- **FGSR Office status**
  - Staffing changes/updates over past year: Program Assistant changes
    Creation of 2nd Graduate Studies Officer (welcome Leah Ray!)

  - Continuing increase in # of graduate applications (up ~30% this year over last, which was also up ~30% over year before!)

2019 FGSR Admissions
As of April 29, 2019

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

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

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

436 Offers of Admission Have Been Sent to Date (April 20, 2018 = 402) (April 18, 2017 = 307)

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New Programs / Program Changes

- M.A. in Geography:
  - **Addition of a Co-Op Option: a one-semester (4 month) work term (in lieu of 2 non-core courses).**

- Ph.D. in Business Administration:
  - **Addition of 2 new Streams (in addition to existing PhD Management stream):
    PhD Accounting
    PhD Finance**

Discussion topics:
Plan to review FGSR policies/procedures

o **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

Discussion topics:
Plan to review FGSR policies/procedures

- **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

- **Updating FGSR committee structure (and getting members!)**
- **Status of moving to fully online graduate applications**
    - new online workflow for ALL graduate applications ("EZrecruit" web-portal) … fell behind - should be fully tested and ready to go one year from now: so, (yet) one more year of current paper, then launch online app. portal in Sept. 2020 (for Fall 2021 admits)

Discussion topics:
Ideas for Professional Development

o **Workshops and/or Courses – for students, faculty**

- **FACULTY:**
Workshop on topic of
"supervising/mentoring graduate students"

- **GRAD STUDENTS:**
- FGSR 7000 "University Teaching" (f2f, online)
- from Graduate Program Coordinator discussion:

  - Career skills
  - Research toolkit / skill development

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 Action Plan
  - Indirect Research Support from TriAgencies:
    - Research Support Fund (RSF)
    - Grant Recovery Funds (GRFs)

Research Updates and Discussion

- **Research Funding – Internal Opportunities:**
  - Just completed Internal Research Grants:
    - up to $3000 each for established Faculty, $5k for New Fac
    - Total budget about $130k for established Faculty, and $40k for New Faculty
    - *Will look at clarifying Criteria / Guidelines*
  - International Conference Travel Fund
  - Course Release for Research:
    - Please remember Nov. 1st annual deadline now
    - All eligible externally funded research grants will have release granted
- **Community-Engaged/Connected Research:**
  - Industry or Community Group: **see OICE slides!**

News related to
Course Release for Research
Application process/timing:

- Starting with the next academic year's requests (2019-20), application timing will be moved to coincide with Departmental "Schedule 2" (teaching schedule/assignment) processes

- **GOAL: simplify/clarify normal teaching assignment process – so "releases" are known by Chairs at time of required scheduling**

- **TIMING: WILL BE DUE NOVEMBER 1st each year**

- **SIMPLIFY/CLARIFY eligibility: must be in receipt of external funding <u>at time of application</u>**
  (e.g. so will still have 3 years of eligible release for 3 year grants)

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Research Updates and Discussion

- **Community-Engaged/Connected Research:**
    - Industry or Community Group:
      see OICE slides

      Kevin Buchan – Director, Office of Innovation and Community Engagement (OICE)

CLARI

CLARI Highlights

- First round of projects was a success (8 projects)

  – Support community-led research
  – Research need will be defined by and originate from the community organization
  – Ideally support students
  – Plan to build on success of project

CLARI Project Funding

- Additional funding received!

- $105,000 received from NS Labour and Advanced Education for 14 additional $7500 CLARI projects

- Additional $50,000 funding received for social enterprise projects

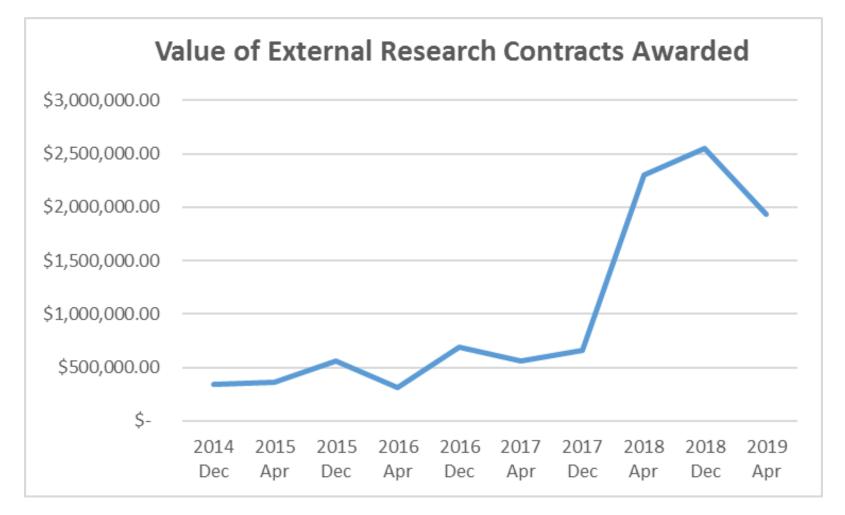- Project ideas? Speak with Ray MacNeil

OICE Recent Highlights

$1,930,540 in research contracts awarded since last Faculty Council Meeting (December)

Biofuel Net

ACOA

CBWES

Oceanwise

Mitacs

Various Provincial contracts

Recent Highlights

Value of External Research Contracts Awarded

NSERC Partnership Program Changes

- Now called **"Alliance Grants"**
- 6 programs combined into one (Engage, CRD, Strategic Partnership, Experience, Connect, IRC)
- 'Partner' has a boarder definition
- Matching is 50% (60% for SMEs) on cash (no in-kind matching)
- 90-100% matching for project up to $200,000/year
- **Take effect mid-May 2019**

Office of Innovation and Community Engagement

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

Vanisa Omicevic, Coordinator
OICE@smu.ca

Thank you

Research Updates and Discussion:
Research Ethics Board – Notes from the co-Chairs

1. The REB continues to work diligently to review proposals for research involving human participants.

    – Forms are available on SMU REB website (https://smu.ca/research/reb-forms.html). Orshy Torok, Research Ethics Officer, is available to provide input, guide you through the process, answer questions, etc. (ethics@smu.ca; 902-420-5728).

2. The REB is particularly busy between November and March.

    – We recommend that undergraduate and graduate theses (or any time-sensitive research) be submitted outside of that busy time to minimize the duration of the review and clearance process (May – August).

    – Of course, the REB welcomes applications year-round but processing/review times can vary.

Research Updates and Discussion:
Research Ethics Board – Notes from the co-Chairs

3. If you have ethics clearance for a project but need to make some changes:

   - e.g., extra questions, add focus group component, or include another cohort

   - **Form 2 (modifications)** is the way to go.

   - Your file in the REB office should reflect the research methodology that has ethics clearance and that you're using

   - Naturally, researchers often need to tweak things as the research unfolds. Submitting Form 2 is the way to have the changes reviewed and cleared.

4. If you have a grant that involves activities to prepare or develop a research project involving human participants but you cannot get funds released for this preliminary work without ethics clearance:

   - please contact FGSR.

   - REB is no longer involved at this junction.

Research Updates and Discussion:
Research Ethics Board – Notes from the co-Chairs

5. The REB reminds everyone that research or research-like activities involving humans that meet the criteria in TCPS 2 Art. 2.1

    (e.g., pedagogical activities that you might want to publish or present at a conference)

    must undergo ethics review **before** you conduct the research.

6. The REB invites faculty to join the service work of a vibrant group of active scholars from diverse backgrounds (plus a few community members).

    – Work on this committee is not onerous and can inform your research and teaching.

    – And free lunches are provided during meetings!

Support for external grant/contracts

- **Research Grants Officer (Margaret Schenk)**
- **Office of Innovation and Community Engagement:**
  - **Kevin Buchan – Director**
  - **Danielle Goodfellow – Industry Liaison Officer**

    (both supported through ACOA-funded Springboard Atlantic network)
- **Change Lab Action Research Initiative (CLARI):**
  - **Ray MacNeil – Network Manager**

- **COMING SOON:**
  - **Grants Facilitator (permanent position)**

Recent TriAgency Grant Results

- **Don't have full report at this time – will have 2nd annual Research Recognition Event in October to review and recognize all grant winners.**

- Recent SSHRC Insight Grant results:
  - 12 applications submitted …
    3 Successful:
    - Myles McCallum (Classics)
    - Matthew Boland (Accounting)
    - Nicole Conrad (Psychology)

Recent TriAgency Grant Results

- Recent NSERC Discovery Grant results:
  - 11 applications submitted, 9 Successful!
  - Early Career Researchers (extra supplement):
    - Erin Cameron (Environmental Science) w/ Northern Supp't
    - Erin Adlakha (Geology)
    - Jiju Poovvancheri (Mathematics and Computing Science)
  - Development Grant:
    - Karen Harper (Biology – Adjunct Professor)
  - Discovery Grants:

    Rob Thacker (Astronomy & Physics)   Tim Frasier (Biology / FRSC)

    Tony Charles (FISMIS / ENVS)   Hai Wang (FISMIS)

    Mitja Mastnak (Math & CompSci)

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

Research Data Management

- 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

New/Other Business