

Research Committee (RC) Report

1. MEETING DATES IN 2023-2024

The RC met seven times in 2022-2023.

2023: September 27th, October 27th, November 24th, December 1st
(Email Vote)

2024: February 16th, April 26th and May 23rd

2. COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

Composition

a. Voting Members:

- i) Chair: Associate Dean, Research, Internationalization and Graduate Studies
- ii) Director, Academic Resources or Designate
- iii) Director, Learning and Instructional Services or Designate
- iv) Four (4) Academic Staff Members, appointed by the Dean, Academic Programs and one of these members must also be a member of the MFA in Craft Media Committee
- v) One (1) Graduate Student, appointed by the Student Association

b. Non-Voting Members:

- i) Secretary, General Faculties Council

Membership

- Dr. Rob Stone, Committee Chair and Associate Dean, Research, Internationalization and Graduate Studies
- Carissa Cameron Matthews, Director, Academic Resources
- Dr. Benedict Fullalove, Academic Staff Members
- Mike Kerr, Academic Staff Members
- Jamie Kroeger, Academic Staff Members
- Dr. August Klintberg, Academic Staff Members
- Kate Ritchie, Graduate Student, Student's Association Representative
- Andrea Power, Secretary, General Faculties Council

Meeting Resource

- Cassandra Paul, Exhibitions and Programs Coordinator, IKG Gallery
- Colleen MacKell, ORAA meeting resource

3. ITEMS APPROVED

Approval of a Centre for Learning and Research in the Arts (Apr. 2024)

The Committee was provided with an overview of the Centre for Learning and Research in the Arts, which is geared towards the scholarship of learning and teaching in art, craft and design education. The Centre membership and mandate and roles were reviewed.

Motion: That the Research Committee approve a Centre for Learning and Research in the Arts, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

Approval of the Health Cultures Research Centre

The Committee was provided with an overview of the Health Cultures Research Centre, which will focus on the relationship of the arts and humanities with a range of physical and psycho-social conditions as well as to a series of life narratives and their different, historical, cultural forms of philosophy and practice. The aim of the Centre will be promoting arts-led innovation in progressive health discourse. The Centre membership and mandate and roles were reviewed.

Motion: That the Research Committee approve the creation of a Health Cultures Research Centre, as set out in the documents provided to the Committee.

4. ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Recommendation to Dissolve the Illingworth Kerr Gallery (IKG) Advisory Committee (Oct. 2023)

Following discussion at its September meeting the Committee reviewed and discussed the proposal to formally dissolve the IKG Advisory Committee. The Committee commended the members of the IKG Advisory Committee for their excellent work in offering guidance, support, and community around the IKG while there was no IKG Curator.

Motion: That the Research Committee recommend that the Steering Committee dissolve the Illingworth Kerr Gallery Advisory Committee, effective immediately, as presented to the Committee.

University Research Centers Procedure (Nov. 2023)

The Committee reviewed the draft Research Centres Procedure, which the Committee learned is broken into different sections which outline the application process, centre membership, budget oversight, and required consultation, governance, and approval process. The Committee discussed the role of the Centre Director and length of term and recommended language to make the language more inclusive to all researchers.

An email vote was conducted from December 1, 2023, to December 4, 2023. The following motion was carried. "That the Research Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the Research Centres Procedure, in the form provided to the Committee, effective immediately."

5. ITEMS DISCUSSED

RC Terms of Reference and Annual Work Plan (Sept. 2023)

The RC reviewed and discussed its Terms of Reference (ToR), specifically reviewing the responsibilities and authorities of the Committee. The Committee then reviewed the anticipated work for the 2023-2024 year.

Research Centres (Sept. 2023)

The Chair provided commentary from last year's visit from a Vice-President (VP) of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) noting that during the visit the VP stressed an eagerness to hear from artists on how research questions could be formatted, and the methods used to address them. It was then reported that the Research Centre Procedure documents have been drafted and are working their way through consultation. The Committee discussed the goals associated with creating research centres.

(Oct. 2023)

The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft Research Centres Procedure, in particular the approval process, timelines for moving this initiative forward, application requirements, and how research centres can connect to Tri-Council funding. The Committee suggested further consultation with HR on titles and the scope/responsibilities associated with a Research Centre Director role.

Soirées + Lunches (Sept. 2023)

An overview of the Soirées + Lunches was provided as well as an update on upcoming topics for these events.

IKG Committee and the future (Sept. 2023)

The Chair reported that during the pandemic, the IKG Advisory Committee was formed to step in and help the Research Committee with a curatorial mandate. They assisted with making recommendations on what to bring into the gallery and aided in supporting the staff. However, now that Tak Pham is now in place as the IKG Curator this group is no longer needed, but to continue to receive feedback Tak has developed a broader committee made up of internal and external members. The Committee discussed next steps, including formal dissolution of the IKG Advisory Committee.

Tri-Council Update (Sept. 2023)

The Chair reported that AUArts is a full tri-council member and will continue over the next year to build a stronger relationship with the tri-council. The Committee suggested that a presentation on the tri-council awards and application process would be beneficial to the community.

Research Grants and Awards (Oct. 2023)

The Chair reported on the recent graduate faculty development forum meetings and that dialogue at these meetings is focused on funding sources.

Development of a Research Centers Strategy (Feb. 2024)

The Committee discussed that following approval of the University Research Centre Procedures by the General Faculties Council in January, the next step is to think about how the university signals to the world what research AUArts is doing and who is doing it. The Committee discussed the university's research culture, how research centres can help to attract funding, how to engage colleagues to create a list of thematic areas of overlap, the value in keeping diverse topics so that everyone can see where their research can fit and the role of the Committee in moving this forward.

Wiki Editing Project (Feb. 2024)

The Committee learned about a project to explore how to teach faculty and students about creating/editing a Wiki page and the value of Wiki pages.

Postdoctoral Applications (Feb. 2024)

The Committee discussed two potential post-doctoral applications, that attracting postdoctoral students is nuanced and members were encouraged to think about projects where postdoctoral work would fit at the University.

Development of a Research Strategy (Apr. 2024)

The Committee discussed what the process should be for creation of research strategy for the University and the importance of continuing to grow the research culture. The Committee further reviewed the supports that would come with the university attracting \$100K in grants on an ongoing basis. It was agreed that the Associate Dean, Research, Internationalization and Graduate Studies should commence discussions on the research strategy at each school council in the next academic year. Themes and ideas could then be brought back to the Research Committee.

Connection Awards Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) (Apr. 2024)

The Committee reviewed the purpose and application process for Connection Awards, and faculty can reach out to the Associate Dean, Research, Internationalization and Graduate Studies for sample applications.

Doctoral Program in Critical Art Practice (Apr. 2024)

The Committee discussed the possibility of the University developing a doctoral program in Critical Art Practice. The Committee discussed the range of doctoral programs offered by peer universities and how the development of doctoral programs can positively influence faculty retention. The Committee suggested that further exploration of demand is needed and that it would be good to consult with current MFA students on this topic. The Committee was supportive of continuing to explore the development of doctoral level programming.

Submitted by: Dr. Rob Stone, Chair
Research Committee