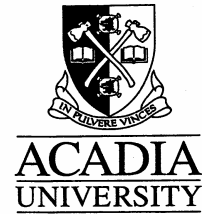


Office of the Senate Secretariat

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24 April 2009

Dear Member of Senate:

I advise you that a meeting of the Senate of Acadia University will occur **at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, 6 May 2009** in BAC 132. The AGENDA follows:

- 1) Minutes of the Meeting of 13 April 2009
- 2) Announcements and Communications
- 3) Approval of List of Graduates for the Convocation of May 2009 (**089-78-CON**)
- 4) Business Arising from the Minutes
 - a) Library Committee - Notice of Motion to Amend to By-Laws (**089-79-LIB**) *
 - b) Nominating Committee Report with Additions (**089-74-NOM**)
 - c) Acadia University Calendar Statement on Academic Integrity (**089-81-INT**)
- 5) New Business
 - a) Research & Graduate Studies - Research at Acadia and Implications of the 2008 Federal Budget (**089-80-RES**) *
 - b) Senate Committee Annual Reports (**089-82-REP**)
- 6) Other Business

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Rosemary Jotcham
Registrar and Secretary of Senate

Items Carried Over/Tabled:

Faculty Development Committee - Endowed Chairs (**078-30-FAC**)
Guidelines for Memoranda of Agreement
Bursary Recommendations

The Senate Library Committee moves that the following revisions to By-Law VIII (e) (“Library Committee”) be approved:

Committee: Library Committee

Type: Standing

Status: Active

Duties:

On the Senate Library Committee, the University Librarian, liaison Librarian, students, and faculty members work collaboratively

- to consult actively with their constituents, to offer another conduit through which constituents convey their academic concerns regarding the library, and to address these concerns by various means, including the formulation of policies;
- to advocate for necessary and appropriate resources for the academic functions of the library;
- to develop policy recommendations with regard to the library’s collection development;
- to develop policy recommendations with regard to the library’s support of research;
- to make an annual report.

Appendix: text of the current by-law

Committee: **Library Committee**

Type: Standing

Status: Active

Duties:

(1) to develop policy recommendations to the library sector regarding a strategic approach to collection development and regarding, for example, issues such as weeding practices (deaccessioning), acquisitions of electronic journals, access/ownership, and decision-making on purchases for the library;

(2) to advocate for necessary and appropriate resources for the academic functions of the library;

(3) to address academic concerns regarding the library, including the formulation of policy, by making recommendations to the University Librarian and where and when necessary by making motions for Senate to act upon, in addition to making an annual report.

**Research at Acadia
 Implications of the 2008 Federal Budget**

On January 27th, 2009, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty presented his fourth budget since taking office. While there are some new monies for university research, they are largely targeted in economy-related areas. As a result, the Tri-Councils (NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR) have announced changes to their programs as a means of realizing millions of dollars in savings. These changes will have a substantial impact on research at universities across the country, with possibly the greatest impact being at small universities.

Tri-Council Changes

NSERC	SSHRC	CIHR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$87.5 million over three years in additional Canada Graduate Scholarships; • NSERC will phase out its CRYSTAL program (Centres for Research in Youth, Science Teaching, and Learning) • Postgraduate scholarships (PGS) will be restricted to one year only (from two); • the Research Capacity Development program (RCD) will be discontinued; • The Major Resources Support program (MRS) will now only provide funding for major resources that are unique on a national or international scale; • The Special Research Opportunity program (SRO) will be discontinued; • The Intellectual Property Mobilization program (IPM) will be discontinued; • The Indirect Costs Program will be reduced in proportion to reductions in direct eligible costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$17.5 million over three years for Canada Graduate Scholarships for “business-related degrees”; • a reduction over three years of \$5.59 million (out of ~ \$20 million) in health-related research that is eligible under the mandate of CIHR; • the elimination of Research Time Stipends (RTS), such that any course-release time for research would now be the sole responsibility of the university; • A reduction of the Indirect Costs Program in proportion to reductions in eligible direct costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$35 million over three years for additional Canada Graduate Scholarships; • CIHR funding of the Open Team Grant program (OTG) will be discontinued, for a total saving of ~\$34.6 million; • Funding for the Intellectual Property Mobilization program (IPM) will be discontinued; • Funding under the Indirect Costs Program will be reduced in proportion to the reductions in the direct eligible costs of research.

There is substantial concern among researchers at universities across Canada regarding the impact on basic research. As reported in the Globe and Mail on April 17th, the budget reduced **\$147.9 million** from the three granting agencies.

In addition to these announcements from the Councils, in a letter dated April 7th the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation (NSHRF) indicated that the current fiscal environment is such that it is reducing its level of support for health-related research in the Province. For the 2009-2010 Student Research Awards, only one year of funding will be available, and at a reduced level. In addition, NSHRF will be supporting only two Partnership Programs, both with CIHR, but again at levels likely lower than in previous years. Also, the workshop elements of the Capacity and Knowledge Transfer/Exchange

Programs will not be offered. NSHRF has indicated that they will continue with the Health Research Grants competition, with a “goal” to provide support similar to other years. Ominous language.

What is being done?

- We are preparing an institutional response (letter) to the Federal Government, outlining the likely consequences of the cuts on basic research at Acadia and the detrimental impact these may have on academic careers, discovery and innovation, and the quality of learning environments. This will be mailed to the Prime Minister and to our MP, Scott Brison.
- A meeting is being held on April 29th in Saint John with deans and VPs of research in Atlantic Canada to discuss issues related to Tri-Council competitions. Having spoken with two deans of research at nearby small universities, and having learned that there is currently no joint effort by small universities (or, any universities in the Maritimes, to our knowledge) to lobby the federal government on the cuts to the Councils, I will put this on the agenda with the intended outcome of a joint letter/lobby from local universities.
- The President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will be visiting campus on the afternoon of May 12th. While the invitation was extended to him long before the federal budget was announced, primarily as a way of generating interesting in CIHR among faculty and students, it will be an opportunity to hear first-hand from a senior executive of one of the granting agencies about the impact of cuts and to discuss with him other possible courses of action.

What else can be done?

- Individual letters and phone calls to members of Parliament and the PMO.
- Letters and lobbies from special interest groups on the impact of cuts.
- Individual narratives on the impact of cuts on careers and research programs.
- Other???

Submitted by:

David MacKinnon
Acting Dean, Research and Graduate Studies