

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	SFU Senate	DATE	January 16, 2025
FROM	Dugan O'Neil Vice President, Research & Innovation	PAGES	1
RE:	SRP Progress Report for Year 2024 and Year 2025 Goals		

The SFU Strategic Research Plan (SRP) Progress Report for 2024 and Year 3 (2025) Goals.**BACKGROUND**

SFU's Strategic Research Plan (SRP) and SRP implementation Plan was officially launched in January 2023. The Implementation Plan included 10 projects identified by the SFU community about barriers to research success at SFU. In the progress report for Year 2 (2024) we have shared detailed updates on eight out of the ten projects as new projects were activated in 2024. For Year 3 (2025) goals have been set for all of the ten projects listed below.

1. Supporting SRP Priority Areas
 - i. Advancing community- centred climate innovation
 - ii. Supporting health and wellness of individuals, populations and communities
 - iii. Strengthening democracy, justice, equity and education
 - iv. Transforming Industry and economies through technology, management and policy
2. Supporting Research Graduate Students
3. Supporting Postdoctoral Fellows
4. Valuing and Measuring Scholarly Impact
5. Decolonizing Indigenous Research Ethics- Responding to the Arc Call #34
6. Building World-Class Research Space and Infrastructure
7. Involving Undergraduate Students in Research
8. Supporting Early Career Researchers
9. Funding Research Chairs
10. Protecting Time for Research

ATTACHMENTS

- Strategic Research Plan (SRP) Progress Report for 2024
- Strategic Research Plan (SRP) Year 3 (2025) consolidated goals.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

2024 PROGRESS REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Year two of our Strategic Research Plan implementation is now complete! It has been an incredibly busy year with a lot of dedicated faculty, staff and students doing and supporting research across all disciplines and all nine of our faculties. Thanks to everyone for another productive year!

When we launched our Strategic Research Plan (SRP) in January 2023, it was accompanied by an SRP Implementation Plan. That document included 10 projects identified by the SFU community to make our university a better place for researchers and research. This report covers the status of eight projects in considerable detail. However, I'll note a few highlights for my opening message:

- **Supporting SRP Priority Areas:** The purpose of this project is to foster interdisciplinary communities at SFU aligned with each of the SRP priority areas. More than 50 faculty members from across all SFU faculties attended a workshop in spring 2024 on the “Community-centred Climate Innovation” priority; we had extensive conversations with the Fraser Health Authority on joint initiatives to be launched in 2025 to foster community in the “Supporting Health and Wellness of Communities” priority; we launched an AI strategic initiative under the “Transforming Industry and Economies Through Technology, Management and Policy” priority; and we are preparing to launch a project in support of the “Strengthening Democracy, Justice and Education” priority.
- **Supporting Research Graduate Students:** The purpose of this project is to improve university support for research graduate students. After implementing a minimum income for PhD students in 2023, in 2024 we turned attention toward understanding the large number of different types of master’s programs at the institution and assessing funding models—this work is still in progress. In the meantime, through close collaboration with the Graduate Student Society and Residence and Housing, additional on-campus accommodation of more than 40 beds was made available for graduate students, while graduate student needs are being incorporated into planning for future residence buildings. A number of other important changes have been made by Graduate Studies as outlined in this report, including transforming the unit from an office to the new Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- **Valuing and Measuring Scholarly Impact (VMSI):** The purpose of this project is to ensure that the university is properly recognizing all the ways in which our scholars impact the world through their scholarship. In 2024 the VMSI team completed semi-structured interviews with 36 Tenure and Promotion Committee (TPC) chairs and expects to present the results in early 2025.
- **Supporting Early Career Researchers (Faculty):** The purpose of this project is to improve support for new faculty members. We soft-launched this project in 2024 with 13 new research support sessions offered to new faculty members in fall 2024, covering a wide range of topics. This project will be in full swing in 2025, taking advantage of what we have learned through the 13 sessions.

Of course, there are many more highlights I could have chosen. I invite you to read the rest of the report to see all the work that has been done.

I should also note that our implementation plan is a “living plan.” In addition to this report, we create new goals for the 10 projects each year, and these goals serve as the basis for next year’s report. This includes launching new projects. In 2025 we will have launched all 10 of the original projects listed in the original implementation plan. I am looking forward to many more improvements to our research environment in 2025!

Thank you,



Dugan O’Neil
Vice-President Research and Innovation

Details of all implementation plan priority projects are published below.

ADVANCING COMMUNITY-CENTRED CLIMATE INNOVATION

Project objective: Community-centred climate innovation is a research priority within SFU's Strategic Research Plan (SRP). SFU Climate Innovation (CI) is operationalizing this priority by promoting interdisciplinarity, catalyzing co-creation research and mobilizing knowledge and innovations with and for communities to address this urgent challenge for B.C., Canada and beyond. CI leverages the capacities of the university to support and elevate research-for-impact that catalyzes evidence-based, low carbon resilience approaches and solutions across communities and sectors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: To advance community-centred climate innovation as a transformative research priority, by aligning internal support and services through an enabling platform, designing and delivering strategic and convening events to connect researchers and partners, providing seed funds to catalyze co-creation research and high-impact funding opportunities.

Progress: Considerable progress has been made this year to advance the strategic research priority of community-centred climate innovation. Key hires including Director of Strategy & Operations and Program Coordinator have been made, and by year end a Strategic Grants Writer will be hired to target high-impact interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary awards. In April, a faculty survey provided a baseline understanding of climate-related research being done across eight faculties at SFU, how it is being funded, and overall researcher goals for impact. A "Researcher Intersections" workshop was held in May, with 55 faculty and 23 staff attendees from across SFU, to build connection and exchange among faculty members and strengthen interdisciplinary networks within the CI community. Both the survey and workshop showcased an appetite from faculty to work in more interdisciplinary ways to achieve greater, more effective climate and sustainability outcomes, and to work together and with community partners to drive research-for-impact. To date, over 100 SFU researchers, from across all eight faculties, have signed up to be part of the CI research community.

The SFU Climate Innovation enabling platform has been established with 14 SFU units, comprising 30 staff, working together to align research services and support to promote this goal. This includes a six-pod governance structure, with aligned goals and KPIs, to be used to support with strategic funding, connect and convene the research community, identify high-impact partners, co-create research-for-impact, communicate and mobilize knowledge, and monitor and evaluate outcomes and impact. This establishes a foundation needed to operationalize and advance community-centred climate innovation at SFU.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Alison Shaw, Executive Director, SFU Climate Innovation (CI)

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals

Mobilize internal support
To advance a coordinated community of practice with cross/interdisciplinary collaboration among existing units at SFU

Key achievements

- Held quarterly workshops with a 'mastermind' group comprised of 14 SFU units and 30 members.
- Development of an agile and collaborative organizational structure using a strengths-based approach, streamlining efforts across units and centres within SFU.
- Presented the CI platform to all ADRs, met for follow up meetings & discussed seed funding ideas with 5 faculties (2025 launch).
- Application for a CI umbrella Mitacs funding foundation to support CI-related student onboarding is under progress.

<p>Development of the CI platform To support with: communications, fundraising, HQP & partnership development, co-creation, knowledge mobilization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired inaugural director of strategy & operation for SFU Climate Innovation to activate fundraising, budgeting and communications capacities. • Hired a CI program coordinator (split 50% with ACT- Action on Climate Team). • Interviews for the CI strategic grants writer position (Jan 2025 start) were completed in December. • Launched CI website and LinkedIn page, over 200 researchers/partners engaged through the website. • Developed a marketing & communications plan to establish and promote the CI brand to internal and external audiences.
<p>Align C3i research community/network To identify community-engaged researchers; develop best practice co-creation methods; promote staged research-to-action - diagnose, plan, implement, evaluate, revise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully applied for research ethics approval for CI survey and workshop(s). • Used analytics to identify over 300 climate-related researchers with RIO, and began discussion on impact reporting. • Delivered a research intersections workshop in May 2024 to climate-related researchers, 78 attendees. • Promoted branding of CI-related researchers with a yellow dot on REE database/website to help identify. • Convened 3 meetings with emerging cluster of interdisciplinary SFU heat, drought, wildfire and smoke-related researchers to target high impact, community-centred funding opportunities (e.g. SSHRC Connect, NSERC CREATE) and other co-creation workshops with CERi/FHS. • Mentorship of 6 Masters RA's, 2 PhD's, and one post-doc on CI-related projects through ACT; 5 graduated. • Helped design and host a symposium on Community-Centred Climate Innovation as part of SFU hosting the Royal Society of Canada.
<p>Advance C3i funding To identify strategic funding opportunities and catalyze philanthropic opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CI Case for Support developed, continued to work closely with AAE and SPH to finalize. • Principles for CI partnership developed in collaboration with AAE and SPH. • Seed funding design and initial adjudication process has been established. • Established a CI database of high-impact funding opportunities, to build a longer strategic runway for CI researchers. • Target list of CI sponsorship partners has been developed.
<p>Develop and nurture partnerships To identify partner needs, co-develop relevant research for action; work in cross-sectoral, transdisciplinary way; co-identify high impact evidence-based implementation opportunities; co-create research framing and delivery (in-kind/ cash contributions); implement, monitor, and revise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships are in development with municipalities, governments, indigenous communities, federal and international agencies. • Partnerships are also in development with major international universities. • Identified a list of 60 high impact community partners to invite to the next CI workshop Jan 2025.

<p>Develop & mobilize research, resources & tools To build climate action, equity, and sustainable communities as strategic and cross-cutting SFU community-centred approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following research tools and resources have been published this year: Natural Solutions Initiative Regulatory Mechanisms Resource, Natural Solutions Initiative Co-benefits Resource.
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Issues and challenges (if any):

- Some confusion, for internal and external audiences with SFU Sustainability.
- Lack of awareness of C3i internally at SFU, and need to establish new CI brand with key audiences & stakeholders
- Limited support from Communications & Marketing which has hindered the roll out of the CI platform & brand
- Limited capacity of some pod members to meet & work on CI goals & activities due to competing priorities

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: [SFU Climate Innovation - Simon Fraser University](https://sfuclimateinnovation.ca)

SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF INDIVIDUALS, POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Project objective: Supporting health and wellness of individuals, populations and communities is a priority area identified in the Strategic Research Plan. In recent years, SFU researchers have been engaged in responding to public health issues such as the global COVID-19 pandemic, the opioid crisis and other profound issues that can be addressed through world-class research. Researchers generate wellbeing in the communities they work with by engaging in mutual, respectful and empathetic processes of knowledge production which can make important contributions to both individual and collective well-being.

However, the researchers are sometimes faced with barriers to collaboration across departmental, faculty and institutional boundaries, so it is important to identify and implement supports for internal community-building, and strategic external partnership tailored for the strategic priority area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: Work in this priority area started in summer 2024 under the leadership of Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research.

Progress: Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and Simon Fraser University (SFU) officially endorsed the idea of creating a joint research institute that will leverage SFU's vibrant research community as well as patient data and real-world insights to advance excellence for the benefit of individuals and communities. To further advance this priority area, expressions of interest have been invited from faculties to allocate one centrally allocated Tier 1 Canada Research Chair at SFU.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals

Develop strategic external partnerships with research activities centred around the identified institutional priority of supporting health and wellness of individuals, populations and communities

Key achievements

- Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and Simon Fraser University (SFU) have endorsed the idea of creating a joint research institute to bridge the gap between clinical care and cutting-edge research by establishing a dynamic hub for research excellence, collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- The FHA-SFU Joint Research Institute will bring together expertise and partners from SFU, FHA and across B.C.'s health sector to accelerate discovery and translate ideas into practice for improved health and wellbeing.
- The search for the inaugural scientific director for the FHA-SFU Institute is underway.
- The office of Vice President Research and Innovation has agreed to provide \$75k in start-up funding for the institute.
- A case for support has been developed by SFU Advancement to explore partnership and funding opportunities.
- Work is in progress to prepare the R40.01 application that is needed to get the approval to establish the institute at SFU.

- Identify a program of support for internal community-building
- Faculties have been invited to submit Expressions of Interest to allocate one centrally designated Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) at SFU that aligns with this SRP priority area: Supporting Health and Wellness of Individuals, Populations and Communities and fosters inter-disciplinary and inter faculty- collaboration.
- SFU School of Medicine is searching for the inaugural Associate Dean, Research. The AVPR is on the search committee for this position and will support integrating this person into SFU's research landscape, which centrally includes activities related to this SRP priority.

Issues and challenges (if any): N/A

Reporting webpage for detailed updates:

[Supporting Health and Wellness of Individuals, Populations and Communities - Simon Fraser University](#)

TRANSFORMING INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Project objective: Transforming Industry and Economies through technology, management and policy is a priority area identified in the Strategic Research Plan. SFU researchers are involved in new technology creation at all levels that are applied to all areas of human endeavor, from building a sustainable world, to improving human health, to transforming the way we teach and learn. The adoption and use of emerging technologies are guided by management and policy research as one means to create economic and societal value and to engage in critical modelling of alternative technological futures.

The SFU research community includes experts in developing AI based technologies and many researchers who have learned to apply these technologies to their field of study. While some courses exist and have been offered on a sporadic basis to researchers, there is no regularized training and support offered to assist researchers in adopting AI-enabled workflows. Researchers are sometimes faced with barriers to collaboration across departmental, faculty and institutional boundaries.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: As the AI revolution charges on, SFU has started on the path to determine how we can responsibly leverage and utilize the use of AI for the good of education, research, and society. To look at how the university can explore the opportunities and impacts of AI at SFU in four key areas: Learning and Teaching, Research, Operations and External Engagement. For reporting on the Strategic Research Plan the focus is on the Research Pillar while a lot of work is being done simultaneously in the other three pillars.

Progress: Under the leadership of Dugan O'Neil, Vice President, Research & Innovation, an AI strategy committee was established in the summer of 2024. to look at how the university can explore the opportunities and impacts of AI at SFU in four key areas: Learning and Teaching, Research, Operations and External Engagement.

The Research Pillar is co-led by Parmit Chilana, Associate Professor, School of Computing Science and Co-director Visual and Interactive Computing Institute (VINCI) and Steve DiPaola, Professor, School of Interactive Arts & Technology.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Fabiana Rassier, Director, Special Initiatives, Office of the Vice President Research & Innovation

Faculty lead: Parmit Chilana, Steve DiPaola

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Key achievements
Formation of a working group for the Research pillar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A working group has been formed to begin discussions on defining the mandate and scope of work. The working group had their first meeting in November 2024.
Promote networking among SFU researchers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visual & Interactive Computing Institute (VINCI) held its inaugural public event, <i>Shaping the Future with AI: Innovations in Visual & Interactive Computing</i>, on November 26, 2024. Attracting around 250 attendees, including students, faculty, staff, industry professionals, community partners, and alumni, the event showcased VINCI's role in advancing AI research and fostering innovation.

Issues and challenges (if any): N/A

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: Under development

SUPPORTING RESEARCH GRADUATE STUDENTS

Project objective: Study ways (including tuition waivers, scholarships, bursaries, housing) to shift our limited resources to better support existing graduate students and to grow our research graduate student body.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: Explore potential sources of Master's funding and enhance support for higher quality scholarship applications and research-oriented supports for graduate students and high-quality supervision

Progress: Discussions and consultations on minimum funding for different Masters programs took place through summer and fall 2024 and will require additional consultations. Several workshops were organized for students related to scholarship applications and other research-oriented supports. The program-level supervisory policy was discussed in fall 2024. There are ongoing conversations to discuss the current and potential future states and on time for completion during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Dugan O'Neil, Vice-President, Research and Innovation

Faculty lead: Mary O'Brien, Dean and Vice-Provost, Graduate Studies

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Key achievements
Consult on minimum funding for research Masters students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data collection was completed in fall 2024.• BASS funding consultations started in fall 2024.
Encourage and support more/higher-quality scholarship applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate Studies held several workshops to introduce and provide an overview of scholarships and awards as well as workshops focused on writing Tri-Agency research proposals.• Improved IGES competition process
Enhance supports for high-quality supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enhance support for high-quality supervision, Graduate Studies hosted various supervision workshops for new faculty members, continuing faculty members across different campuses as well as a workshop for new Graduate Program chairs.• The Graduate Program Chair Handbook has been updated to provide additional resources to aid Graduate Program Chairs with supporting the graduate student journey.• Consultations began on the scope of program-level supervisory policies.
Provide research-oriented supports and workshops for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two skills-building workshops were organized for research graduate students.
Create/ update plan for Graduate Student Housing at the university	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mediated consultation took place between Residence and Housing and Graduate Student Society representatives in summer 2024 to discuss the current and potential future states for on-campus graduate student housing at all three campuses.• New residence spaces were allocated for graduate students from the existing supply of on-campus accommodation. This change will be in effect by summer 2025.• Planning to further expand graduate student spaces as new housing supply comes online has begun.
Create a dashboard/integrated system to track graduate student funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A system is being developed by IT Services that can track student funding to ensure that minimum funding commitments are being upheld.

Issues and challenges (if any): Given complexities across academic units, there are certain activities that require high levels of collaboration and consultation and ultimately more time to implement.

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: [Supporting Research Graduate Students](#)

SUPPORTING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Project objective: To identify and address the concerns and challenges experienced by postdoctoral fellows and provide a central managed point of support for them.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: To continue to build on the administrative support available to the postdoctoral fellows, prioritize and address the needs raised by the postdoctoral fellows, and find ways to expand the professional development opportunities for postdoctoral fellows.

Progress: The working group membership was renewed this year and all of the high priority challenges identified previously by the postdoctoral fellows have been addressed. The Coordinator, Postdoctoral Affairs is actively engaged with postdoctoral fellows and other units to provide ongoing administrative support to the postdoctoral community and bring any important issues to the awareness of the working group. A monthly newsletter is now being sent out to postdoctoral fellows that provides information on upcoming events, fellowships, awards, and other important resources and opportunities. Some of the other highlights for this year include establishing a set of guidelines that support the appointment of postdoctoral fellows for teaching positions and establishing a base salary to ensure postdoctoral fellows are not earning below the living wage.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals

Enhance professional development support for postdoctoral fellows at SFU.

Key achievements

- In collaboration with UBC, the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation & Graduate Studies hosted a Career Symposium for postdoctoral fellows and graduate students focused on finding and applying for academic positions and thriving in the position.
- A professional development workshop for postdoctoral fellows on “Dealing with Conflict Situations: Respectful Learning Environments and Communication at SFU” was hosted at the SFU Surrey Campus in Feb 2024.
- We extended invitations to attend Professional Development Programs organized by UBC to SFU’s postdoctoral fellows throughout this year. Some of these include:
 - The Six Leadership Conversation Program(s)
 - Fundamentals of Project Management Program
 - Foundations of Career Planning Program

Continue to work on prioritizing the needs in consultation with postdoctoral fellows at SFU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of guidelines has been made available to support faculty and department administrators involved in the appointment of postdoctoral fellows for teaching opportunities at SFU. With effect from July 1, 2024, all faculties and departments have been asked to adjust the salaries of internal postdoctoral fellows for new appointments and contract renewals to ensure they are earning at or above the living wage determined by Living Wage for Families BC. Postdoctoral fellows can now seek conflict resolution coaching support from Conflict Resolution and Investigation Specialist within the Office of the Vice-President, People, Equity and Inclusion. We have addressed all six areas for improving the postdoctoral experience that were identified by the SFU Postdoctoral Association.
Raise the profile and awareness of postdoctoral fellows at SFU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home website for postdoctoral fellows has been re-designed and is updated regularly to include additional resources for postdoctoral fellows. Beginning May 2024, a monthly newsletter is being sent to postdoctoral fellows that provides information on upcoming events, fellowships, awards, and other important information and opportunities for postdoctoral fellows at SFU. A Fall, 2024 Appreciation and Welcome Day was hosted by the Postdoctoral Association and the Office of the Vice President Research & Innovation to orient new and returning postdoctoral fellows to SFU and provide opportunities for professional development and networking. To celebrate and recognize the pivotal contributions of postdoctoral fellows to research and discovery, we highlighted their stories on the SFU Dashboard during the National Postdoc Appreciation Week.
Build on the current level of administrative support available to postdoctoral fellows at SFU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coordinator, Postdoctoral Affairs has been actively working with postdoctoral fellows and administrators to provide continuous support for the postdoc community. Institutional postdoctoral fellowship application processes were officially transferred to the VPRI office (e.g., Banting Fellowships). The Coordinator, Postdoctoral Affairs will promote tri-agency and other opportunities (e.g.- MITACs) while supporting institutional processes for these competitions.
Explore ways to improve funding support for postdoctoral fellows at SFU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VPRI office has established a point of contact and is working with Advancement & Alumni Engagement to develop cases for support to identify private funding opportunities for postdoctoral fellows. In Nov 2024, the new Vice President Research & Innovation (VPRI) Postdoctoral Supplementary Travel Award was piloted. To be launched in January 2025, this annual allocation of \$30,000 is designed to advance the professional development of SFU's postdoctoral fellows by providing supplemental financial support for travel to present or disseminate scholarly work at events (e.g., conferences, symposia, workshops).

Issues and challenges (if any): We have limited communications resources available to build a strong plan to help raise the profile and visibility of postdoctoral fellows and their research.

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: [Supporting postdoctoral fellows](#)

VALUING AND MEASURING SCHOLARLY IMPACT

Project objective: Examine SFU's incentive and support structures to assess whether they align with the way the university values research impact as well as equity, diversity and inclusion and develop materials to support departmental processes (e.g., TPCs) and make them available to the community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: Considering the types of scholarly impact at SFU, gather a deeper understanding of the current university landscape (practices & processes) within tenure and promotion committees, faculty hiring and renewal committees and administrative levers & analyze the data gathered.

Progress: To get a deeper understanding of how we value and measure scholarly impact across SFU's departments and faculties we interviewed 84% of the current TPC Chairs. The preliminary analysis of the data has been done to identify emergent themes, and a detailed analysis is in progress.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Elicia Maine, Associate Vice-President, Knowledge Mobilization and Innovation

Faculty lead: Carman Neustaedter, Dean, Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Key achievements
Continue the momentum of the work done by the first working group that was established to kick start the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The membership of the working group was renewed for another year (June 2024 - May 2025) and some new members were added to maintain representation across different faculties.
Understand and analyze the current Tenure Promotion Committee (TPC) practices across SFU departments and faculties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The TPC sub-committee completed semi structured interviews with 36 TPC chairs across the university (84% of all the TPC Chairs) to better understand different practices of research and scholarly assessment at SFU and examine whether they align with the way SFU values research impact.The sub-committee has completed a preliminary analysis using the data gathered from the interviews, departmental guidelines for TPC submissions and Institutional Research Planning by department.The complete synthesis & analysis is expected to be completed by Spring 2025 using both qualitative and quantitative data analysis tools to find emergent themes, as well as commonalities and diversity across different departments and faculties. This analysis will inform the development of outputs to support the TPC's assessment of scholarly impact.
Review SFU internal awards and procedures and explore opportunities to include assessment criteria alternatives to traditional academic metrics, and guidance on how to use these.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The administrative sub-committee reviewed an environmental scan of external research awards offered at other universities and some internal faculty awards. Based on that, the sub-committee provided input, promising practices for the new suite of SFU Excellence in Research Awards.The subcommittee has representation on the awards committee in the form of a non-voting member to provide ongoing guidance on evaluation criteria and matrix etc.This sub-committee also shared their input in response to the community consultation email to review proposed changes to the Distinguished SFU Professor Award policy.

Build resources for faculty to improve the development of strong, competitive, impact narratives for funding (internal and external) opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is in progress by the administrative sub-committee to identify resources and guides to create a guide for writing impact narratives.
Understand and analyze the resources that SFU provides to guide faculty search and renewal practices across SFU departments and faculties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Faculty Renewal and Retention sub-committee reviewed the materials on EDI Program with training, considerations, and practices for hiring and advancement (similar to the unconscious bias training for TPCs) produced by an external consulting group. Post the review, the sub-committee provided some initial feedback and identified broader areas relevant to VMSI within the training manual to provide ongoing guidance. Some of these areas include a) addressing structural barriers in academia b) developing criteria c) interactions within committees. This sub-committee also reviewed the new SFU Guidelines for faculty recruitment for search committees developed by the Office of the Vice-President, People, Equity and Inclusion.
Develop shared definitions of core scholarly impact concepts for SFU to support understanding and alignment	<p>Based on its review, the sub-committed provided input and guidance (change in the language) on certain topics within these broader guidelines to diversify the way in which search committees think about valuing and measuring scholarly impact. Some of these topics included a) considerations in developing job criteria b) evaluation of candidates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The working group invited speakers (both internal and external) to facilitate discussions on important topics that relate to the overarching goal of the project such as declaration on research assessment (DORA), changes to Tenure, Promotion, and Merit Award Systems, recognizing excellence in community engaged scholarship to name a few. Through this we are building collecting language, capacity, and potential champions on the subject.

Issues and challenges (if any): As similar work was being done by various central units (example: new EDI training module and guidelines for TPC's by Faculty Relations), some of the work of this project working group had to be paused to wait for their outputs.

The output/deliverables for this project will come in the form of suggestions and recommendations but it's not clear if they will be picked up/implemented. Some of the logical places for them to be picked up include Collective Bargaining.

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: [Valuing and Measuring Scholarly Impact - Simon Fraser University](#)

INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES INTO RESEARCH ETHICS * (note title change)

Project objective: Establish respectful and ethical protocols and practices for researching in and with Indigenous communities; and to ensure that Indigenous perspectives, knowledge systems and ways of knowing are respected and supported in the scholarship of faculty and students.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: Develop a structure for Human Participants Research review at SFU that has increased capacity to work with First Nations (FN) and review FN-related protocols

Progress: A restructuring of the Research Ethics Office resulted in a slowdown in progress, as the focus of the office had to move away from specialized areas and towards ensuring continuity for all researchers. Despite this, work on the review of the form has begun, and options are currently being discussed for Indigenous membership or review support for the REB.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Trevor Davis, ED Research Operations

Faculty lead: Vicki Kelly, Faculty of Education

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Key achievements
Increase Research Ethics Board and Office of Research Ethics' (ORE) capacity to manage Indigenous ethics, integrate principles into way of working in ORE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ethics application form review has begun.New REB membership has provided more opportunities to modify internal processes where possible. However, we will shortly lose the only Indigenous researcher on the REB. We are exploring possibilities of bringing in external members to serve in this capacity.
Directly consult with local communities and seek guidance from Knowledge Holders and Elders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outreach regarding a direct consultation with nations will continue as opportunities arise.
Convene a local structure to guide this work, if deemed appropriate through the consultation process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seven Indigenous researchers and the Indigenous Executive Lead have been directly consulted, and several others indirectly. Most of them have recommended against establishing a formal Advisory Council.
Develop research pathways with First Nations partners that take community priorities into account.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The process for research intake has been developed with the Squamish nation and is nearing finalization. This work has stalled due to several changes in roles at the Nation.

Issues and challenges (if any): Timelines can be long as it may take several years to develop the relationships required, and over time roles may change, necessitating a restart. However, thanks to the involvement of Vicki Kelly and the foundational work of the Dialogues we have demonstrated to our FN partners that we are serious about the work and are willing to engage long-term. It has jump-started the process of engagement in several instances.

The principal issue this year was the need to restructure the REB and the Research Ethics Office. This set plans back considerably in terms of REB education and particularly staff competency. The new structure is intended to keep decision-making primarily in the hands of the board, so our focus for education and development must be there.

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: [Decolonizing Indigenous Research Ethics - Responding to the ARC Call #34 - Simon Fraser University](#)

BUILDING WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Project objective: Increase the quality and availability of world-class research infrastructure and supporting infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: Continue planning and implementation of key infrastructure upgrades.

Progress: Planning for infrastructure upgrades continued, with a focus on obtaining a larger amount of government funding and doing more extensive renovation work.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Trevor Davis, Executive Director, Research Operations

Faculty lead: Angie Brooks-Wilson, Dean of Science

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Key achievements
Develop plans for upgrades to previously identified deficiencies with the largest impact on research programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shrum intervention work continues – now in its third year. Work on roof membranes has significantly decreased the incidence of flooding in Shrum and other areas.
Implement upgrades for key deficiencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identification of swing space and planning for research continuity is underway. This is contingent on a commitment to government funding.
Working with Facilities Services, advocate for new research spaces on campuses, including the Life Sciences Building and Medical School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Life Sciences Building advocacy with the provincial government was not successful. Focus has shifted to renovations to existing spaces. The Medical School building is now the responsibility of a dedicated team within Facilities and the Medical School.
Develop a process for identifying additional lab deficiencies across campus and a process to rank them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Index data to assist with evaluation has been gathered, and index modifications are being considered.Consultations are in progress to discuss the evaluation process to identify lab deficiencies.Moving ahead on this work depends on the identification of funding.
Procurement to refresh Supercomputer Cedar resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A competitive procurement process was completed. The deployment of the new system, now known as 'Fir', will be substantially completed by March 2025.
Support ITS in upgrading wifi and cellular coverage across campuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional wifi access points will be installed at Burnaby Library 5th floor once Facilities Services renovations are complete.Wireless design completed for Convocation Mall and Burnaby Library 6th floor.Networking and Wireless infrastructure are being installed as part of Facilities Services renovations.Rogers will increase the number of rooftop cellular sites from 2 to 5. Upgrades will start this year and run through 2026.Continuing negotiations with two other cellular providers, with a goal to have similar agreements in place in the coming months.

Issues and challenges (if any): In all projects not within scope of capital upgrade funding the primary challenge is securing the required resources. The primary challenge in the larger-scale Shrum work is the identification of acceptable swing space for faculty – especially specialized labs.

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: [Building World-Class Research Space and Infrastructure - Simon Fraser University](#)

INVOLVING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN RESEARCH

Project objective: To provide SFU's undergraduate students enhanced opportunities to learn about world-class research across a wide range of disciplines and to be able to participate in that research.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: To review the VPRI Undergraduate Student Research Awards program to consider its goals, funding levels & accessibility and consider new ways, opportunities for undergraduates to learn, participate and get exposure to research at the university.

Progress: In the fall 2024, we created a cross-university working group with representation from Vice President Research and Innovation (VPRI) office, Provost and VP Academic (VPA) office, Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS), Faculties, and Library to consider new ways to provide SFU undergraduates with exposure to research. The working group had its first meeting in October 2024. The group meets monthly and is actively working to explore opportunities and challenges related to the Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) program as well identify other ways for supporting undergraduate involvement in research.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research

Faculty lead: Paul Kingsbury, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Learning & Teaching pro tem

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals

Undergraduate Research Symposium

Provide support for the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Key achievements

- SFU's 6th Undergraduate Research Symposium, a collaboration between the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, Graduate Studies, and SFU Library took place on April 9th.
- At the symposium, 58 SFU undergraduate students presented their research in the form of 5-minute presentations or posters. This year's event featured a keynote presentation, faculty-moderated student presentations, a graduate student panel discussion, and a poster and networking session. All undergraduate student presenters were given a book prize.

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)

Identify and create an implementation plan for improving SFU's suite of USRAs and consider opportunities to diversify targeted support through other mechanisms.

- A review of recent USRA utilization data has been completed. Higher-level strategic conversations have taken place and we have gathered feedback that will be used to revise and refine the program.
- The working group is now doing a deeper dive into the USRA program to consider its goals, funding levels and accessibility. This will lead to exploring ways/opportunities to make changes that will address the current challenges with the program.

Raise awareness around events highlighting the SFU research experience for undergraduates at the institution.

- It is an ongoing effort to identify and implement ways to amplify communications for events in the university that involve research by, or research opportunities for, undergraduates. Example: Amplify the communications for GIS day cohosted by SFU Library and Department of Geography.

Issues and challenges (if any): There is limited communication support to improve visibility promotion of undergraduate research culture at SFU given all faculties operate and engage with the undergraduates differently.

Another challenge for the coming year is the need for us to shift administrative support for the USRA program from Graduate Studies to the VPRI portfolio, which will require identifying new mechanisms for administering it.

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: [Involving Undergraduate Students in Research - Simon Fraser University](#)

SUPPORTING EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Project objective: Examine mentorship programs, internal peer-review platforms for grants, educational materials and other resources for new faculty, and streamlining of processes for support including for research space and equipment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overarching goal for the year: This project was not identified to start in 2024 hence an overarching project specific goal was not established at the beginning. However, in summer 2024, Shelley Gair, Executive Director, Office of the VPRI, volunteered to lead this project.

Progress: The project kickstarted in summer 2024. One key priority identified was to provide more information to early career researchers on the research supports that are available at SFU. The VPRI office organized and offered a series of 13 different research support sessions, provided by various research support units, during the months of October and November.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Shelley Gair, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation

Trevor Davis, Executive Director, Research Operations

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals

To improve the faculty orientation and onboarding experience so that new research faculty can be better supported in their transition to SFU and have a clear understanding of the research resources and supports that are available.

Key achievements

- A faculty orientation session was held in August 2024 by Faculty Relations for new faculty members joining SFU that also included a session on research supports at SFU.
- 13 different Research Support Sessions were organized in the Fall 2024 by VPRI office and the various research support units to provide information on the research priorities at SFU and the different supports available for faculty.
- Some of the sessions offered include Awards Readiness by Institutional Strategic Awards (ISA), International Collaborations by SFU International (SFUI), Library support, Research & Impact in Community by Knowledge Mobilization Hub and Community- Engaged Research Initiative (CERI), Research Grants & Contracts by Research Services (ORS).

To build on the current level of administrative support and resources (including online information) available to new and continuing faculty members in carrying out their research.

- The Faculty Relations website has been updated to provide more detailed information for new faculty about different units within SFU, and other materials as an introduction to the administrative and service departments at the university.
- The Research website is also being restructured and updated to improve access to research supports.

Issues and challenges (if any): The Research Support Sessions for fall 2024 were lower in attendance than expected based on the registrations and promotions/communication leading up to the sessions. We need to gather feedback and analyze the cause of low attendance so that we can adjust the sessions if needed. We will offer the sessions in Spring to provide opportunity for those who were interested but could not attend the Fall sessions.

Reporting webpage for detailed updates: [Supporting Early Career Researchers](#)

STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

2025 DRAFT GOALS

COMMUNITY-CENTRED CLIMATE INNOVATION

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: As climate changes increase in frequency and severity, communities are being impacted across Canada and beyond. SFU Climate Innovation is advancing SFU's strategic research priority to support the work of researchers working with and for communities to co-create and mobilize actions and innovations that advance low carbon, resilient and sustainable communities. We provide services and supports to advance the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research required to meet the challenge.

The overarching goal for 2025 is to fully operationalize the platform created in 2024, aligning mandates to roll out unique services in support of interdisciplinary connection and convening, co-creation processes between climate innovation researchers and community partners, and knowledge mobilization that supports communities and advances SFU's reputation in this arena.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Alison Shaw, Executive Director, SFU Climate Innovation (CI)

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals

Strengthen internal supports and services
To advance a coordinated community of practice with inter/transdisciplinary collaboration among existing units at SFU

Measurable outcome/key metrics

- Develop and circulate draft Strategic Plan.
- Continue to build connective tissue with staff from 14 SFU units to align goals to deliver on community-centred climate innovation.
- Finalize the CI communications and marketing plan, including website updates and enhanced communications to the CI community and partners (e.g., through social media and newsletters)
- Work with the Associate Deans of Research to initiate an adjudication committee for seed funds.
- Finalize umbrella Mitacs funding to support CI-related student experiences.
- Obtain ethics approval for the ongoing research and evaluation of CI via a databank.
- Identify opportunities to support ESCA goals.

Testing the CI platform

To support with: communications, fundraising, researcher connecting and convening, HQP & partnership development, co-creation, knowledge mobilization

- Onboard a CI strategic grants writer to facilitate access to higher impact funding opportunities for researchers & communities.
- Establish a strategic advisory committee to guide CI direction.
- Develop and nurture 2 to 3 research clusters – researchers, partners, networks related to specific research areas (e.g., wildfire preparedness and response, microgrids, nature-based solutions) in support of moving toward high-impact funding opportunities.

<p>Nurture and grow the CI research community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish regular communication channels with CI network of researchers (e.g., newsletter, quarterly online updates, lunch n' learns, etc.) and grow this network. Launch the CI seed funding program, in collaboration with all faculties, to catalyze interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary CI research collaborations. Deliver the 2nd SFU Climate Innovation Researcher Intersections Workshop to build internal relationships. Continue to support the development of HQP in interdisciplinarity and co-creation (e.g., seed funds, Mitacs), building capacities and cohesion among this cohort of students (e.g. ACT's Connecting the Dots).
<p>Grow CI funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with SPH and Advancement to finalize a compelling 'Case for Support' that generates strong leads for sponsorship of both CI projects and the CI platform. Develop sponsorship agreement & MOU templates that can be applied to a diverse range of partners. Develop evergreen communications – pitch decks, one-pagers, etc. that can be presented to national and international forums to high-impact partners. Work with ISA to build a 'project readiness' runway to target strategic research funding opportunities (e.g., Tri-Council, Horizon Europe, etc.).
<p>Develop and nurture strategic partnerships and networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver two SFU Climate Innovation Researcher-Partner Workshops (Jan and Dec 2025) to provide an opportunity for SFU researchers to engage with each other and with community partners to identify and advance high-impact climate action and innovation opportunities. Continue to grow and nurture high-impact community partners (e.g., local governments and First Nations, local non-profits, place-based businesses, etc.) and ancillary networks (e.g. non-profits, impact investors/funders, provincial and federal government, professional associations, standards associations, consultancies, national and international organizations (e.g. FCM, ICLEI World, Global Covenant of Mayors, etc.).
<p>Develop and mobilize research, resources & tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage social media accounts in a way that directly promotes CI value proposition – to move capacities of the university to support communities in climate action and innovation. Support the development of a learning hub where resources and tools are collated for researchers in the CI community, using diverse channels, building relevant resources and tools for practice. Develop best practice impact metrics for CI's activities & outcomes.

SUPPORTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF INDIVIDUALS, POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Set up the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and Simon Fraser University (SFU) joint research institute to bridge the gap between clinical care and cutting-edge research by establishing a dynamic hub for research excellence, collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals

Develop strategic external partnerships with research activities centered around the identified institutional priority of supporting health and wellness of individuals, populations and communities

Measurable outcome/key metrics

- Seek Senate approval of a new research institute to foster collaborations between SFU and FHA. Assuming Senate approval to establish the institute, undertake the work below.
- Onboard the inaugural scientific director for the FHA/SFU joint research institute.
- Design a standalone website for the joint research institute that will be used to promote projects, research capacity programs and other opportunities to collaborate on research initiatives, and ways to engage with the institute.
- Host a launch event to mark the opening of the institute, raise awareness and set the platform for collaboration between SFU, FHA and the broader B.C. health care landscape.

Identify a program of support for internal community-building

- The AVPR will support the inaugural Associate Dean, Research for the SFU School of Medicine to integrate into SFU's research landscape, that primarily includes activities related to this SRP priority.
- Support the allocation of one centrally held Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) at SFU based on the expressions of interest received from faculties that aligns with the SRP priority area, supporting health and wellness of individuals, populations and communities.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE, EQUITY AND EDUCATION

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Activate cross-disciplinary dialogues with SFU scholars working at the intersections of democracy, justice and equity, and education.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Shelley Gair, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President, Research

Faculty lead: Laurel Weldon, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Aftab Erfan, Executive Director, Centre for Dialogue

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Initiate exploratory cross-disciplinary dialogues among SFU scholars working at the intersections of democracy, justice and equity, and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exploratory cross-disciplinary dialogues are held throughout the year.
Map the current landscape and create collective awareness of possible synergies, opportunities and challenges facing researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Awareness of potential synergies, opportunities and challenges facing researchers is increased.
Design a light support structure to help advance this work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A support structure to advance this work is designed.

TRANSFORMING INDUSTRY AND ECONOMIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: To create a mandate and an action plan for the working group and feed into the development of a university wide AI strategy.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Fabiana Rassier, Director, Special Initiatives, Office of the Vice President Research & Innovation

Faculty lead: Parmit Chilana, Steve DiPaola

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Mandate and scope of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Finalize the mandate for the working group and create an actionable work plan.
Contribute to the development of university wide AI strategy that is integrated across the four pillars	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The action plan and inputs for the research pillar is integrated into the overall university wide AI strategy.
Foster interdisciplinary AI research at SFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify ways and opportunities to foster interdisciplinary AI research and showcase strength of AI research at SFU.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH GRADUATE STUDENTS

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Explore opportunities to clarify and support the research graduate student journey.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Dugan O’Neil, Vice-President, Research and Innovation

Faculty lead: Mary O’Brien, Dean and Vice-Provost, Graduate Studies

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Consult on minimum funding for research master’s students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consult on definitions of master’s program types.Determine a sustainable level of funding for research master’s students.Clarify what equitable BASS funding support will look like in the future.
Support high-quality supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop a wider range of workshops for supervisors.
Complete review and update of Graduate General Regulations (GGRs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Distinguish GGRs for research and professional degree students/programs.Ensure that policies are in alignment with principles of Truth and Reconciliation.Ensure that policies are in alignment with principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.
Support student success in obtaining internal and external awards and career development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Offer hybrid workshops that prepare students for participating in conferences and applying for scholarships.Collect feedback on and make any necessary revisions to Indigenous Graduate Entrance Scholarship (IGES).Provide a workshop for faculty and instructors on best practices in writing letters of recommendations.Review scholarship processes and eligibility to support inclusive excellence.
Create a dashboard/integrated system to track graduate student funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launch a functional and accurate system to track graduate student funding.
Continue to update plans for affordable graduate student housing at SFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure that future planning for on-campus accommodation in Burnaby and Surrey take into account the needs of the graduate student population.
Monitor the impact of new student visa requirements on international graduate student recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate provincially and federally for sufficient student visas to support our graduate student population.Monitor effect of new student visa caps on graduate student recruiting.

SUPPORTING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: To build and implement a cohesive communication strategy to raise the profile of postdoctoral fellows and their research at the university and identify opportunities/mechanisms to build on the funding support for postdoctoral fellows.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice President, Research

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Enhance professional development supports for postdoctoral fellows at SFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launch the new Vice President Research & Innovation (VPRI) Postdoctoral Supplementary Travel Award to advance the professional development of SFU's postdoctoral fellows by providing supplemental financial support for travel to present or disseminate scholarly work at events. (e.g., conferences, symposia, workshops).Build on the collaboration with UBC to allow postdoctoral fellows at SFU to participate in professional development programs organized by UBC.Explore options for postdoctoral fellows to participate in mentorship activities for undergraduate students that will provide them with experience useful for their career advancement.Encourage the development of a teaching workshop for postdoctoral fellows at the Centre for Educational Excellence.
Raise the profile and awareness of postdoctoral fellows and their research at SFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Create and implement a communication strategy to raise the profile of postdoctoral fellows and integrate them into the university.Explore other recognition opportunities for postdoctoral fellows.
Explore ways to improve the funding support for postdoctoral fellows at SFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to work with Advancement & Alumni Engagement to identify private funding opportunities for postdoctoral fellows.In consultation with SFU Library, Institutional Strategic Awards, faculty grant facilitators and the Postdoctoral Association, build a program supporting the review of postdoctoral funding applications.
Support and improve the recruitment of postdoctoral fellows to SFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Connect with faculty members across disciplines to learn more about gaps and opportunities around postdoctoral supervision.Promote opportunities and supports available through the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Administrator's portal.
Address new challenges and issues in consultation with postdoctoral fellows at SFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for designated postdoctoral spaces on Burnaby and Surrey campuses.Explore the option of creating a potential Research Associate employee category at SFU.

VALUING AND MEASURING SCHOLARLY IMPACT

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: 1) To complete the analysis of the TPC chair interviews that were conducted in 2024 to better understand how valuing and measuring scholarly impact is enacted at SFU, and 2) To produce a report & educational materials to address some of the gaps identified via the interviews of TPC Chairs and to support the TPC's assessment of scholarly impact.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Elicia Maine, Associate Vice-President, Knowledge Mobilization and Innovation

Faculty lead: Carman Neustaedter, Dean, Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Understand and analyze the current TPC practices across SFU departments and faculties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the synthesis & analysis of the data from the TPC Chair interviews using both qualitative and quantitative data analysis tools to find emergent themes, as well as commonalities and diversity across different departments and faculties.
Understand and analyze the resources that SFU provides to guide faculty search and renewal practices across SFU departments and faculties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a plan for how to work with faculty search committee chairs and search committees to understand search processes.
Review SFU internal awards and procedures and explore opportunities to include assessment criteria alternatives to traditional academic metrics, and guidance on how to use these	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to provide ongoing guidance on evaluation criteria and matrix etc. to the SFU Excellence in Research Awards committee in the form of a non-voting member
Build resources for faculty to improve the development of strong, competitive, impact narratives for funding (internal and external) opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a guide for writing impact narratives through synthesizing literature/guidance documents and expertise from experienced reviewers.
Develop recommendations for administrators, faculty, tenure and promotion committees, and hiring committees to enhance scholarly impact assessment and administrative recognition approaches such as awards, faculty renewal plans and department or faculty evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce a set of recommendations and guidelines for assessing interdisciplinary and non-traditional work to more consistently value scholarly impact within the TPC processes.• Develop high-level recommendations for the university to demonstrate alignment with institutional priorities and values regarding scholarly impact through administrative recognition.
Create materials and resources to support implementing these recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce a report and resource materials to address the gaps identified via the interviews of TPC Chairs to support TPC's assessment of scholarly impact.

INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES INTO RESEARCH ETHICS* (note title change)

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Identifying and implementing a path for the review of Indigenous-related research.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Trevor Davis, ED, Research Operations

Faculty lead: Vicki Kelly, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Continue to pursue Indigenous representation on the REB. In lieu, develop an external or ad-hoc reviewer program to provide many of the same benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Capacity to review Indigenous-related research
Staff capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reboot the Indigenous Ethics Dialogues in a format that is relevant to a broader array of Research Operations staff.

BUILDING WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Complete Supercomputer 'Fir.' Acquire funding for renovations.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Trevor Davis, ED, Research Operations

Faculty lead: Angela Brooks-Wilson, Dean, Faculty of Science

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Digital Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completion of the project.
Refresh supercomputer Cedar resources	
Explore the addition of SFU-specific Cedar resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional CPU/GPU resources in place for SFU researchers.
Continue to support ITS in upgrading Wi-Fi and cellular coverage across SFU campuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue upgrades. New antennae complex in place on TASC2. Continue negotiations with other service providers.
Capital Infrastructure	
Implement upgrades for key major infrastructure deficiencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Secure additional funding increased sufficiently to continue (and expand) the renovation project of the Shrum complex.

Complete new Core Facility infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete WearTech facilities in Surrey – officially launch. • Complete WearTech climate chamber project in Burnaby. • Complete installation of CBRF/BRIF hardware in BIO3 lab. • Complete upgrades to air handling system in BIO3 lab. • Complete installation of PacifiCan quantum program hardware in 4D Labs.
Launch modular core facility support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement admin support for 1-2 facilities that are making some equipment available to other researchers or industry.
Boatyard upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the boatyard and implement provision of services and security. • Plan for secure storage of new externally funded mobile research infrastructure, and begin implementation as grants are secured.
SFU-owned boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete review and update of registration and safety program for SFU-owned boats. • Implement practical training program for all boat operators.
Animal Care upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and install new cage washing hardware.

INVOLVING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN RESEARCH

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Revise and refine the Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) to address the challenges raise and explore other ways to support undergraduate student researchers and provide them the exposure and opportunity to learn and participate in research at SFU.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research

Faculty lead: Paul Kingsbury, VPA - Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Learning and Teaching pro tem

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Undergraduate Research Symposium Identify ways to improve the value and prominence of the symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the visibility and awareness of the symposium across the university. • Identify a dedicated unit(s) to host the symposium. • Explore ways to encourage stronger participation by undergraduate researchers. • Explore a mentorship program for undergraduate student presenters to network with graduate students to develop their research skills and prepare for graduate studies.
Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) Deeper analysis of the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the feedback and data collected, revise and refine the USRA program to address the current challenges with the program.

Identify other opportunities to support undergraduate research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The working group will identify challenges/issues and work on new opportunities/ways that encourage participation by undergraduates in research.
Raise awareness and visibility about the SFU research experience for the undergraduates at the institution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a communication strategy to raise the overall awareness of research and opportunities to participate in research at SFU amongst undergraduates' students across disciplines. Example: Amplify the communications for GIS day cohosted by SFU Library and Department of Geography.
Begin planning around research supports and funding opportunities for SFU's future undergraduate medical students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the School of Medicine's incoming Associate Dean, Research to understand the research needs of this undergraduate group.

SUPPORTING EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Explore options for a mentorship program for early career researchers (ECRs) and enhance the current level of support and resources available to them.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Shelley Gair, ED, Office of the VPRI, Trevor Davis, ED, Research Operations

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Continue to improve the faculty orientation and onboarding experience for new research faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather and analyze feedback/data on the research support sessions that were offered in fall 2024. Adjust the sessions based on feedback and offer the sessions again in the spring 2025 and fall 2025 terms.
Explore and evaluate options for a mentorship program for early career researchers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and analyze any existing models of mentorship, and consult with faculty, HR, Faculty Relations and other units as relevant to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and the need for a mentoring program for new faculty as they transition to university research careers. Prepare a proposal for a mentorship program based on the analysis and consultations and possibly launch a pilot program in Fall 2025.
Enhance the current level of support and resources available to new research faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a series of Canvas courses for researchers to develop knowledge and skills. For 2025: Conflict of Interest (COI) and Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Revamp and refresh the researcher resources website. Identify and prioritize challenges experienced by ECRs. Explore ways to address these challenges in collaboration with other units.

FUNDING RESEARCH CHAIRS

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Complete the development of fundraising case of support for research chairs aligned with the strategic research plan priority areas.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research

Faculty lead: N/A

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Identify funding opportunities to establish world class research chairs at SFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with SFU Advancement to develop a case for supporting research chairs and professorships.
Support the recruitment of research chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support strategic recruitment of new research chairs in the CRC and CERC portfolios, including institutional supports for new chairs.
Advance the Strategic Research Plan priority areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support the allocation of one centrally held Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) at SFU based on the expressions of interest received from faculties that aligns with this SRP priority area: Supporting health and wellness of individuals, populations and communities and fosters interdisciplinary and inter-faculty collaboration.

PROTECTING TIME FOR RESEARCH

Period: Jan. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Overarching goal for the year: Gather information to identify and understand the administrative barriers that researchers are experiencing, that have a negative impact on their time for research.

Project leads

VPRI portfolio lead: Shelley Gair, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President, Research

Faculty lead: TBC

PROJECT DETAILS

Sub goals	Measurable outcome/key metrics
Begin consultations with several faculties to help identify administrative barriers that researchers are experiencing that take time away from conducting research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information gathered from at least two different faculties (e.g. SCI, FCAT) to better understand the current administrative barriers researchers are experiencing.Issues/challenges are prioritized, and a plan is drafted to address these challenges.