RESEARCH POLICY

PURPOSE
1.00 The purpose of this policy is to set out the manner in which research is conducted, supported and communicated at the university.

DEFINITIONS
2.00 Research means the intentional process of study and creative expression that explores and extends human knowledge and experience. Research may take the form of:

   a. basic studies, where scholars work to discover new knowledge without explicit intentions for the use of the research;
   b. applied studies, where an attempt is made to address specific problems through the process of discovery;
   c. operational studies, where the emphases are on feasibility of projects, evaluation of programs and production of new or improved materials, devices, processes and programs; and
   d. creative studies, which seek to inform culture through artistic endeavour.

3.00 Research Funding Agreement means funding provided by a funding organisation through an agreement with the university to be used for research purposes, whether the agreement would be considered a grant, contract, contribution agreement, or whether the agreement takes any other form, and whether it is legally enforceable or not.

SCOPE
4.00 This policy applies to Research conducted at the university and to all individuals conducting Research.

POLICY
5.00 The Board of Governors delegates responsibility to the Vice-President Research for approving regulations and procedures to implement policy in the area of Research, subject to regular due diligence reporting on statutory requirements and any activity involving liability or risk in Research.

   Research Activity, Academic Freedom and Intellectual Property
6.00 The university recognizes that Research covers the whole spectrum of knowledge derived from all disciplines.
Research activity shall be curiosity-driven, creative, open, critically evaluated, and accessible to society.

Because a university is a community of scholars, in which teaching and Research are bound together inseparably in a common core of scholarship, the general expectation is that all faculty in professorial ranks should be engaged in Research activity.

The university shall maintain academic freedom, freedom of inquiry, and freedom of expression, in all its Research activities.

The university strives for, and expects, the highest standards of scholarly integrity from its researchers, and in turn, shall do its utmost to protect the academic freedom of its researchers in the execution of grants and contracts or other research funding agreements. Faculty members are expected to deal with any conflict of commitment or conflict of interest through the procedures outlined in the Framework Agreement.

Research or study conducted at the university shall be conducted in accordance with the university’s policies including, without limitation, the following:

Research or study involving human subjects, or animals shall be conducted in accordance with the university’s policies for Research Involving Humans RH8105 and Research Involving Animals RH8110 respectively.

Research or study involving risks or hazards of any kind shall be conducted in accordance with the university’s Occupational Health and Safety Policy SS9200.

The university shall aim to create a supportive environment for the generation of intellectual property in all its forms, and enhance the transfer of intellectual property to the public domain through mutually beneficial partnerships.

The university shall provide support and encouragement to interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and international Research activity including the formation of institutes, centres and groups, where a unique contribution to scholarship may be made, or for the development of Research areas in which the university has a special competence.

Publication

Faculty in professorial ranks are expected to advance their discipline; therefore, the university shall normally expect its faculty to place Research results or creative activity in the public domain for information and peer adjudication.

Results of all Research undertaken in the university shall be fully publishable at the discretion of the researcher(s) or owner(s) of the intellectual property, subject to the qualifications of funding agencies or contractual arrangements.

Research Funding Agreements which unnecessarily prohibit or delay the use of research results by graduate students for theses or other academic purposes
related to the completion of their graduate degree will not be permitted. Delays in publication at the request of a funder are permissible in order to protect patentable material pending application, or where immediate commercialization may be jeopardized. Delays in excess of six months require approval of both the Vice-President Research and the Dean of Graduate Studies. Research Funding Agreements may limit or prohibit the disclosure and use of third party confidential and proprietary information (refer to the Intellectual Property Policy GV0215 and Appendix D of the Framework Agreement for detail).

**Support for Research**

13.00 Research and creative activity, as an integral part of scholarship, is part of the primary mission of the university and must be supported at all levels of the institution. The university shall provide material support for Research through the development and maintenance of infrastructure, facilities and support services, and will seek ways to provide extra support and encouragement to Research and creative activity.

13.01 The university shall facilitate the efforts of faculty members to secure external funding on acceptable terms in support of particular Research projects or programs in accordance with the External Research Funding Agreements Policy RH8200 and its associated procedures. The university, through the Faculty of Graduate Studies, will also work to assist graduate students in procuring funding.

13.02 Where revenue is generated through Research activity, some portion of that revenue shall be returned to the Office of the Vice-President Research to support other Research initiatives. Refer to the Intellectual Property policy GV0215 and the Indirect Costs of Research policy FM5400 for further detail.

13.03 Eligible faculty members and librarians, who propose to undertake or continue a Research project where the primary purpose involves critical or scientific inquiry aimed at the discovery of new facts or the development of new interpretations or applications, may make an application to receive a portion of their salary in accordance with the university’s Research Grants in Lieu of Salary policy RH8205 and its associated procedures thereby enabling the recipient to pay a portion of the expenses associated with undertaking the Research. All applications are subject to peer review.

**Sponsored Research**

14.00 In fulfilling its responsibility to society, the university will pursue and undertake sponsored Research of benefit to society.

14.01 The university has a responsibility to help society with its issues and problems, many of which might be illuminated or ameliorated by the application of new or existing knowledge. In many cases, this work is carried out through sponsored Research activities funded through contracts, grants or a specific allocation of university resources.

14.02 Grant and contract funds are held in trust by the university and are not the property of any individual. Only the university has the legal authority to enter
into contracts or to agree to act as paymaster for a grant. Such authorization must be executed by a university signing officer under authority delegated by the Board of Governors, in accordance with the Signing Authority Policy FM5100.

14.03 Classified or secret Research will not normally be conducted by the university or its members.

Communicating the Importance of Research
15.00 Research and creative activity are civilizing influences and allow advances that provide a better quality of life. Their importance must be communicated to decision makers and the public to ensure their place high on the political and societal agenda. It is essential that government and society recognize the importance of Research to civilization and to the natural world. The university shall communicate both its Research and the impact of its Research to internal and external communities.

15.01 The university commits to recognizing Research excellence within the university and externally.

15.02 The university shall seek to facilitate: faculty representation on external Research or granting agencies.

AUTHORITIES AND OFFICERS
i) Approving Authority: Board of Governors
ii) Designated Executive Officer: Vice-President Research
iii) Procedural Authority: Vice-President Research
iv) Procedural Officer: Vice-President Research

LEGISLATION
University Act

RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS
Establishment and Review of Research Centres policy RH8300
External Research Funding Agreements RH8200
Indirect Costs of Research FM5400
Intellectual Property Policy GV0215
Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy GV0210
Research Grants in Lieu of Salary (and associated procedures) RH8205
Research Involving Humans RH8105
Research Involving Animals RH8110
Signing Authority Policy FM5100
Occupational Health and Safety Policy SS9200
Framework Agreement