

# ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY

## BOARD POLICY

**Title: Royal Roads University Research Policy**

**Policy #: C1000**

**Effective Date: 15 November 2005**

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### **Board Policy Statement**

#### Research Model

The Royal Roads University research model centers the production of useful knowledge and tools under the unifying theme of sustainability to reflect the four core pillars of the University - environmental sustainability, empowering leadership, entrepreneurial management, and conflict analysis and management. Within a knowledge-based economy, our research model is action oriented and problem solving in nature, reflecting the evolving learner community that RRU has fostered.

The Board will approve a business plan for research that is updated as needed. The plan will maintain a direction consistent with the mandate of RRU.

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### **Philosophy**

Research was identified in the Royal Roads University Act (1996) as part of one of its three stated purposes, i.e., “to maintain teaching excellence and research activities that support the University’s programs in response to labour market needs of British Columbia.”

This updated research policy is based upon one approved by the Board in 1998. It recognizes the integral role research can play in Royal Roads University’s strategic direction, the importance of research to the teaching and learning functions at RRU, the contribution research can make to the economic and social development of the province and beyond, and the positive impact to the University in making research a high priority.

#### Research Policy Directions

RRU will develop and support, as an integral and key component of the University's strategic direction, a program of applied research activities within and across each of the learning divisions.

- The research program will embrace and integrate the core pillars of RRU - sustainability, leadership, entrepreneurial management, and conflict analysis and management - within the overarching theme of sustainability.
- The research activities will support the University's curricular themes, RRU's focus on teaching excellence and use of innovative instructional models and technologies.
- Research business plans will be developed within each learning division and within the Centre for Economic Development and Applied Research (CEDAR).
- Interdisciplinary research across programs will be actively promoted.
- Alliances with outside partners will be sought.
- Cost recovery at a minimum underpins research.
- Research will focus in particular on the economic and social development needs of B.C. and the Pacific Rim.
- Research will complement RRU's international education goals.
- RRU research will complement RRU educational programming goal to serve the underserved, that is, to serve mid-career learners through effective use of information technology.

### Research Principles

- The majority of research at RRU will focus on real world problem-solving.
  - Action research and action learning will guide a large portion of research projects, as these methodologies are complementary to real world problem solving.
  - Interdisciplinarity in research will complement RRU's flexible, interdisciplinary approach to education.
  - Funds to support research will be sought from private industry, foundations, and international sources as well from provincial government sources and federal major granting councils. The latter will be encouraged where such funds provide leverage for private partnership development.
  - Research innovation will be encouraged, and where feasible, commercialization of research will be encouraged.
  - Recognizing the tremendous value in the "intellectual capital" of our learners' workplace research projects, links between learners' host organizations and employers and the university will be fostered.
  - Industry, inter-institutional, and community based research that is dependent on effective alliances and collaborative networks within industry, the business community, corporations, government, communities, and the public will be encouraged.
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### **President's Responsibilities**

The President will ensure that resources, procedures, personnel and processes are in place to effect this policy.

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### **Information, Action and Monitoring Requirements for the Board**

The Board will receive annual reports on research activity which reference variances – negative and positive – with the Business Plan.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

B.C. Legislature. *The Royal Roads University Act, 1996*. Victoria: Queen's Printer of British Columbia, 1997.

Kelly, Gerry. *Building Blocks for Royal Roads University, A Work in Progress*. Victoria: Royal Roads University, February 1999.

*Research at Royal Roads University*. Approved by the Royal Roads University Board of Governors, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

Royal Roads University. *Education Plan*. Victoria: Royal Roads University, January 1996.

Royal Roads University. *Education Plan Update*. Victoria: Royal Roads University, May 2001.

BC Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training. *Royal Roads University, Board of Governors, Terms of Reference*, July 1995.

Royal Roads University. *Business Plan Update*. Victoria: Royal Roads University, July 1999.

## FACT SHEET

### **DATES:**

13 September 2002 Board Approval

13 September 2002 Implementation

15 November 2005 Board approved renewal

15 November 2008 Review Due (*approval date + three years*)