

OFFICE OF THE VICEPRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SCHOLARLY, RESEARCH
AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

2010-2013

Priorities of public funding bodies. Both the federal and provincial governments have sharpened the focus of their funding strategies to support targeted areas of research strength and improve knowledge transfer, with the explicit goal of boosting the social value and economic benefits of their investments.

There are clear linkages among these drivers, which is why it is important to develop a coordinated strategy and integrated approach at an institutional level, especially in such areas as identifying areas of strength, attracting faculty and integrating the teaching and research missions.

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

From the drivers, we have developed the following high priorities that our SRC strategy must address:

- x *Enhance existing areas of research strength and expertise, and create new research opportunities with high impact in strategic emerging areas of scholarly, research and creative activity*
- x *Promote Ryerson research faculty and institutional reputation regionally, nationally and internationally*
- x *Leverage collaborative research partnerships to broaden and deepen our research efforts and enhance our profile*
- x *Stimulate novel, multidisciplinary research interactions across institutions and disciplines that will contribute to the development of innovative research and academic programmes*
- x *Support an entrepreneurial research culture to facilitate better and faster knowledge transfer*
- x *Communicate our successes*
- x *Invest in our undergraduate students by providing scholarly, research and creative training opportunities*
- x *Capitalize on the most effective and efficient use of research infrastructure resources*

STRATEGIES

1. Defining, Leveraging and Promoting our Strengths in SRC

We have identified the following clusters of research activities offering Ryerson high potential for enhancing its scholarly, research and creative activities. These clusters align in many cases with identified research priorities of the federal and provincial governments. This is key, because as noted those governments have both, in recent years, developed strategies based on a sharper focus on areas of strength. The clusters also stimulate thinking about new, multidisciplinary academic programs and research both within Ryerson and in partnership with other institutions or organizations. Because they also reflect areas in which Ryerson can build on its unique strengths, they may be particularly helpful in developing and enriching partnerships whether at the regional, provincial, national or global level.

1. Digital Media, Communication and Information Technology Ryerson faculty are at the leading edge of media convergence. New media research looks at the impact of interactivity and other capabilities on traditional approaches to content, creative processes, information delivery, learning and ownership. Multidisciplinary research probes such relationships as technological innovation and creativity, and technological change and its impact. The field encompasses the creative convergence of digital arts, humanities, science, technology

determinants of the healthy city, including structures and processes for citizen participation. This strategic area can be characterized by the interplay of the experimental sciences, engineering, the affiliated health sciences, social sciences, and humanities and the knowledge and methods each brings to address issues of health, stress and aging. Ryerson's role in psychology, nursing, midwifery, nutrition and other allied health care professionals, and its crossdisciplinary programs in these areas, makes it ideally suited for a more prominent role in new models of health education and research, including the emerging concept of the academic health sciences network.

4. Civil Society and Cultural Prosperity Across its faculties, Ryerson is uniquely positioned to leverage and stimulate creative expression, innovation and vision, drawing on its diverse urban, academic and multicultural surroundings. High levels of social cohesion, trust, democratic participation

Actions

The Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation will:

- x Work collaboratively with the Provost and Deans to use the information to help build and strengthen the identified clusters; facilitate individual research projects to seek wide collaborations based on the identified clusters; and promote their value in both internal and external communications
- x Create a framework for Centres and Institutes and identify funding opportunities
- x Explore joint initiatives with Universities in the region

infrastructure supporting it must respond appropriately. The Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation is committed to enhancing Ryerson's research environment within a culture of research integrity and accountability. To that end, an external review of the Portfolio to determine how it can better serve the needs of our community has recently been undertaken. We will use the findings in support of our goal of providing the environment necessary to move faculty research and innovation forward within a service-oriented culture.

Actions

The Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation will:

- x Identify new initiatives to expand the intellectual engagement of undergraduate and graduate students in research opportunities.
- x Continue to implement major revisions to our organizational structure based on the recent external review.

3) Building a Research Reputation

As one of Canada's fastest growing teaching and research institutions, the reputation of Ryerson University rests upon, among other things, the strength of its faculty. It is important to ensure that outstanding faculty members receive the recognition they deserve, through a coordinated nomination process for national and international research awards, prizes and honours.

Through the Research website, we are already communicating to our internal and external constituents the quality, breadth and value of SRC activity at Ryerson. Building on this, greater public advocacy and a communications strategy to strengthen relations with government, the community at large and industrial stakeholders will enhance Ryerson's profile and reputation and increase our ability to attract research funds.

Actions

The Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation will:

- x Establish an institution-wide research awards strategy for the University to maximize our success at garnering prestigious, external, national and international honours, awards and fellowships
- x Recognize and celebrate our successful faculty
- x Create an effective, up-to-date, and user-friendly website that communicates the successful scholarly, research and creative activity within the University to its external stakeholders.

- x our ability to attract leading researchers as candidates for faculty positions
- x support for new faculty
- x the quality of our graduate and postdoctoral applicants
- x research performance appropriate to different types of SRC activity
- x undergraduate student exposure to and participation in research projects
- x new partnerships, invited lectures, new disclosures, patent applications, licensed technologies and other forms of knowledge transfer
- x number of national and international awards and prizes received by faculty
- x level of research funding
- x number of industrial contracts
- x visibility and impact of the research

Recognizing that not all scholarly, research and creative activity is tied to it can be measured by traditional performance indicators, the Office of the VPRI will establish a committee to evaluate and recommend performance indicators for other types of scholarship and creative activity, including performing arts, fine arts, design and exhibitions.

The strategies set out here represent the role that the Strategic Plan for scholarly, research and creative activity will play in creating a “virtuous circle” for Ryerson by helping to attract strong faculty, working with them to identify and act on opportunities, giving them the right tools and recognition, and promoting our successes. Together, this cycle of actions will continue to build Ryerson’s research reputation.