

Office of the Vice-President, Academic and Research

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5 September 2012

TO: The Saint Mary's Community

FROM: Dr. David Gauthier, Vice-President, Academic and Research

CC: Dr. J. Kevin Vessey, Associate Vice-President Research

RE: First Consultation Draft of the Revised Strategic Research Plan

I am pleased to announce that the first consultation draft of the Saint Mary's revised Strategic Research Plan (SRP) is now available to the Saint Mary's Community (see: http://www.smu.ca/academic/fgsr/about_dean.html).

Dr. J. Kevin Vessey, Associate Vice-President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, has been leading the renewal of the SRP. He has been consulting with the Saint Mary's Community on the revision of the SRP for over a year. These consultations have included presentations at Town Hall sessions in March 2011 and January 2012, FGSR Faculty Council meetings, and at a Deans Retreat during the summer of 2012. At each event, feedback and submission were invited from participants. In addition, the SRP Renewal website was created with numerous supporting documents and analysis associated with the research activity of the University over the last 10 years. Dr. Vessey received seven formal written submissions and has had numerous one-on-one conversations with members of the Saint Mary's Community on revisions to the SRP.

I remind members of the Saint Mary's Community that Government of Canada funding agencies required that SRPs follow a certain format and contain some specific content (for detail see <http://www.chairs-chaieres.gc.ca/program-programme/instructions-eng.aspx>).

In reviewing the consultation draft of the revised SRP, you will see that the revisions are largely updates to, and refocusing of, the former version of the SRP. Some revisions of note are:

- The Plan is shorter and more succinct.
- The Plan now contains a Research Mission statement for the University.
- The Major Research Theme on Innovation in Business and Workplace Studies has been expanded to include information systems and technology.
- Major Research Theme #3 has been entitled "The Environment and Natural Resources," better reflecting the significant record and activity our scholars have

- shown on research involving natural resources (including geological resources). This theme also references our new School of the Environment.
- The Astronomy and Computational Sciences Major research Theme has been expanded to include Sub-atomic Physics

I invite your feedback on the first consultation draft of the revised Strategic Research Plan and ask that you please send your comments directly to Dr. Vessey at kevin.vessey@smu.ca **by September 30, 2012**. Dr. Vessey will then prepare a second consultation draft of the Plan. We plan to hold a Town Hall meeting on the SRP during October. Final revisions to the plan will take place during November so that it can be put on the agenda for the December meeting of Senate.



David Gauthier