

The King's University

Edmonton, Alberta

SUMMARY

Strategic Research Plan

2015 - 2020



A. Institutional context and commitment to research

The King's University is a privately governed undergraduate university, offering three-year and four-year degree programs in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, a four-year degree in commerce, and 2-year after degree programs in education. All degree programs are accredited by the Province of Alberta.

The King's University aspires to contribute to the advancement of knowledge through a commitment to excellence in teaching and scholarly research. In order to live up to this commitment, King's requires a doctorate or equivalent terminal degree for appointments to tenure track faculty positions, and faculty members are contractually obliged to be actively engaged in research and scholarship as a condition of continued employment. Undergraduate students are frequently involved in faculty research in the context of required research projects for meeting their degree requirements.

B. Current Research Themes

The following five overlapping research themes can be identified at King's.

1. Religion, Culture and Society

The encompassing theme of Religion, Culture, and Society, is a reflection of the liberal arts foundations/general education curriculum of The King's University. As a Christian university, investigating the role of faith and religion in culture and society is most prominent.

2. Environment

The broad theme of Environment includes a wide range of research projects in conservation biology, chemistry, environmental studies, economics, sociology, history and political studies.

3. Pedagogy

The Pedagogy theme research includes the pedagogical research done in the Faculty of Education, and the many open access pedagogical resources to improve the public understanding of science as produced by The King's Centre for Visualization

in the Sciences (www.kcvs.ca). The Modernist Archives Publishing Project (MAPP; www.modernistarchives.com) also produces many open access pedagogical resources.

4. Community Engaged Research

With the appointment of a faculty member as the Director of Community Engaged Research, The King's University is committed to developing this research theme and to involving undergraduate students in it.

5. Natural Sciences Research

The Natural Sciences Research at The King's University embraces a wide range of research projects in Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Astronomy, and Computing Science.

C. Current Research Collaborations

The King's University faculty members have established fruitful collaborations with researchers at other universities, government and non-government agencies.

1. Collaborations with university researchers

King's faculty members have collaborative working relationships with faculty members at twelve different universities, predominantly in North America and Europe

2. Collaborations with government agencies

King's faculty members have collaborative working relationships with researchers at both federal and provincial government agencies in Canada.

3. Collaborations with non-government agencies

King's faculty members have collaborative working relationships with six non-government agencies.

4. Community Engaged Research partnerships

Community Engaged Research partnerships have been established with more than a dozen agencies in Alberta.

D. Objectives of the Strategic Research Plan

1. Strengthen the interdisciplinary philosophical and theological inquiry into the relationship between religion, culture, and society.
2. Enhance the development of the community engaged research theme.
3. Assist faculty members to develop sustained programs of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research.
4. Increase the funding obtained through external research operating grants.

5. Access research infrastructure support from federal and provincial government sources in order to maintain and/or upgrade the university's current research infrastructure.
6. Involve an increasing numbers of undergraduate students in active research projects.

E. Action plans

In order to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Research Plan, The King's University has established the following action plans.

1. Establish a Centre for Christian Thought and Action, as called for in the University's Strategic Plan *Shared Vision 2020*. The academic focus of the interdisciplinary Centre is to sustain, promote, and invite Christian philosophical and theological reflection within, upon, and across all university disciplines.
2. Seek funding for three faculty positions, to be seconded to the Centre for Christian Thought and Action. Funding for these positions is anticipated to come from endowments, or from a successful Canada Research Chair nomination.
3. Commit resources to provide adequate administrative support for community engaged research.
4. Appoint a Research Director/grant writer in order to keep faculty informed about research funding opportunities, increase the number of external grant applications, and centralize the research grant administration.
5. Increase funding for undergraduate research students by identifying new sources of revenue.
6. Showcase undergraduate research by highlighting the involvement of undergraduate students in research.
7. Increase institutional research funding and funding for conference attendance by faculty members

F. Expected observable outcomes

The King's University expects the following observable outcomes of the Strategic Research Plan.

1. Successful launch of the proposed Centre for Christian Thought and Action in 2018 or 2019.
2. Have one or more endowed faculty positions as part of the Centre for Christian Thought and Action.

3. A successful Canada Research Chair nomination. The university's Fall 2015 nomination is for a Special Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Continental Philosophy of Religion position in the department of philosophy. The successful nominee will be seconded to the Centre for Christian Thought and Action.
4. The appointment of a Director of Research/grant writer.
5. The appointment of a full-time coordinator of Community Engaged Research.
6. An increase in the number of undergraduate students involved with faculty research, and an increase in the number of academic presentations that involve undergraduate students.
7. Adoption of a funding formula that will keep faculty professional development funding allocations and internal research funding in pace with the increased costs of attending conferences and conducting research.
8. Adoption of a multi-year plan to upgrade the university's research infrastructure.

Planning and Approval Process

The King's University's *Strategic Research Plan 2015-20* was developed by the Vice President Academic in collaboration with the five Deans of the university's faculties. The Research Plan is based on the university's *Shared Vision 2020* strategic plan, which was approved by the Board of Governors in March 2015. The Strategic Research plan was approved by the General Faculty Council and by the Senate.