

Title: Increasing Research Intensity in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Proposal: The creation of a course release program for full-time faculty engaged in intensive research and other scholarly and creative activities.

Rationale: The 2012-2017 Academic Plan aims to make Lakehead University a "research-intensive university" (1), and makes "intense research, scholarly and creative activity" one of the university's priorities (2). The plan builds on the principles of the earlier 2005-2010 Strategic Plan and its commitment that "All full-time faculty should have workloads and resources that provide them with equal opportunity to meet their teaching, research, and administrative obligations" (4). Lakehead University continues to make strides in its plan to increase research intensity across the university; however, the demise of the SSHRC Research Time Stipend program has led to a shortage in the social sciences and humanities researcher's most precious resource: time. In a 2010 evaluation of its grants and research development initiatives programs conducted by Goss Gilroy Inc., Management Consultants, SSHRC found that the number one hindrance factor impacting the success of researchers was "Lack of Research Time Stipend (SSHRC)" ("Summative Evaluation of the Standard Research Grants and Research Development Initiatives Program" http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/publications/SRG_RDI_Evaluation_e.pdf) This proposal seeks to address this shortage through the establishment of a course release program for full-time faculty engaged in intensive research and other scholarly and creative activities. In addition to addressing the number one hindrance factor affecting researchers in the Social Sciences and Humanities, the proposal also represents an opportunity for the university to fulfill one of its strategic actions identified in the most recent Academic Plan (Action 1.5: Establish a Research Time Stipend fund).

An open and transparent process by which Social Science and Humanities faculty members could apply for a 0.5 course release to support their research or other scholarly and creative activities would help faculty members meet their research and creative goals, strengthen the quality of social sciences and humanities research and creative production at the university, and substantially contribute to the 2012-2017 Academic Plan to make Lakehead a research-intensive university.

Eligible Research/Scholarly/Creative initiatives may include:

- Externally funded research grants or fellowships with no course release attached during the academic year in which the course release would be held.
- Internally funded or non-funded research, scholarly or creative projects with no course release attached.
- Research/scholarly/creative projects near to completion (e.g. book completion).
- Community-based research/scholarly engagement that requires substantial time commitment.
- Research contracts with no course release (and no salary remuneration to the contract holder).
- Academic journal senior editor.

- Presidency of a large scholarly association.
- Primary organizer of a major national or international academic conference.
- Major Tri-Council Grants Adjudication Committee (not scholarship or fellowships committees).
- In cases where two or more Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities faculty members are collaborating on a project and each is requesting a research release through this Program, separate applications are required.

Terms of Award and Restrictions:

- Probationary and tenured faculty members whose normal teaching load is 2.5 FCE or higher and who do not already have access to another course release related to or predicated on research or creative activity are eligible to apply.
- Course Release will be for a 0.5 FCE reduction in teaching load.
- Course Release must be taken in the academic year for which it was granted.
- Course Release cannot be banked or deferred.
- Faculty members will only be eligible to hold one such course release every three (3) years.
- Course releases may not be converted to a monetary value.
- Departments will be given one 0.5 FCE sessional stipend to replace the teaching of each faculty member awarded a course release.
- Holding this award does not preclude receiving any other non-research related course release, nor, in future years, holding other research-related course releases from other sources.

Applications:

There will be a set deadline for applications announced in advance to the faculty. Faculty members must apply for the course release. A complete application includes:

- A letter requesting the course release and describing the research or scholarly or creative activities it will support.
- Supporting documents, e.g. confirmation of journal editorship, tri-council committee membership, book contract, grant award, etc.
- A current CV highlighting contributions from the past six years
- A statement from the faculty member's department chair or chairs (in the case of cross-appointments) indicating awareness of the application and a willingness to accommodate a course release if awarded.

Adjudication:

Applications should be adjudicated within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities by an appointed Adjudication Committee of three members. Faculty members applying for a course release should not sit on the adjudicating committee.