

Innovation Steering Committee: Recommendations on the mapping of research activity with the potential for commercial or social impact in academic units, centres and institutes

February 2017

In view of a case study presented to the Innovation Steering Committee by Dr. Gordon Shore examining the process and outcomes of an exercise to map research activity with potential commercial or clinical impact at the Goodman Cancer Research Centre (GCRC), the Innovation Steering Committee has the following observations:

- The relatively simple and straightforward mapping exercise created significant value for the GCRC:
 - The mapping exercise enhanced the sense of unity among the disparate researchers, research agendas, and laboratories making up the GCRC.
 - The exercise filled an unmet need to convey to current donors the ultimate impact or potential for impact that their support had generated.
 - The exercise created a clear platform for engagement with prospective donors.
 - The exercise allowed the GCRC to identify and prioritize areas for business development support, leading to more licensing opportunities and the creation of valuable industry relationships.

The manifold benefits of the mapping exercise illustrated in the GCRC case study suggest an opportunity for broader application at McGill. In light of these observations, the Innovation Steering Committee recommends the following actions:

1. That the Office of Innovation and Partnerships support other academic units, institutes and centres to complete similar mapping exercises focusing on research with the potential for social or commercial impact. This support may take the following forms:
 - a. Development of templates
 - b. Assistance with information-gathering and analysis
 - c. Project management support
2. That the Associate Vice-Principal, Innovation and Partnerships provide a briefing to the Research Advisory Committee, comprised of McGill's Associate Deans of Research, outlining the benefits of a mapping exercise and offering to support those units interested in undertaking this activity.
3. That the Associate Vice-Principal, Innovation and Partnerships seek to provide similar briefings to other appropriate audiences across the University, including to McGill's Deans and the directors of McGill's research centres and institutes.

4. That the personnel of the McGill University Business Engagement Centre (a sub-unit of the Office of Innovation and Partnerships) and individuals in University Advancement be brought on as partners in supporting these mapping exercises.

These recommendations are endorsed by the members of the Innovation Steering Committee:

Prof. Peter Grutter, ISC Co-chair, Chair, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science	Angelique Mannella, Associate Vice-Principal, Innovation & Partnerships	Prof. Pierre-Emmanuel Moyse, Faculty of Law	Prof. Jason Carmichael, Faculty of Arts
Prof. Steve Maguire, ISC Co-chair, Director, Marcel Desautels Institute for Integrated Management, Desautels Faculty of Management	Mr. Paul Chesser, Assistant Vice-Principal, University Advancement	Prof. Mark Andrews, Department of Chemistry	Prof. Dilson Rassier, Dean, Faculty of Education
Lea Cameron, Senior Advisor, Innovation Strategy	Dr. Tim Geary, Director, McGill Institute of Parasitology	Prof. Doina Precup, Department of Computer Science	Prof. Greg Vit, Faculty of Management, Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurship
Prof. Ollivier Dyens, Deputy Provost, Student Life and Learning	Prof. Benoit Boulet, Associate Dean, Research & Innovation, Faculty of Engineering	Dr. Gordon Shore, Faculty of Medicine	Prof. Josephine Nalbantoglu, Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Students
Arisha Khan, SSMU Representative	Jacob Lavigne, PGSS Representative		