

Tactical Plan Progress Update 2023-2025

Background

After extensive consultation, the Office of Research Services (ORS) developed the Tactical Plan for Scholarship (TPS) to provide direction to furthering our contributions to Teaching Greatness: Strategic Vision 2030 and building a robust and sustainable research ecosystem at MacEwan. In April 2023 GFC approved the TPS, which included a two-year implementation plan to operationalize how we intend to achieve the goals set forward in the TPS.

The 2023-2025 implementation plan identified four objectives, Fostering Talent, Breaking Down Barriers, Reinforcing Research Supports, and Celebrating Scholarship, with each objective directly contributing to the achievement of the TPS's three goals. The ORS has focused on the accompanying actions and metrics that were attached to each objective.

Teaching Greatness: Strategic Vision 2030

The TPS operationalizes directions within Teaching Greatness: Strategic Vision 2030. The Strategic Vision's dashboard includes three metrics relating to the "Trendsetters and Trendbreakers" direction:

5.1 Research Funding – we have exceeded the \$2.5M target for external research dollars awarded to faculty by 2025.

5.2 Centers of Excellence – we have met the target of 4 centers of excellence by 2025.

5.3 Research Assistantships – we have exceeded the target of 375 students through the provision of research assistant opportunities and Undergraduate Student Research Initiative (USRI) grants.

These metrics will continue to be monitored as we approach the 2030 targets.

Progress 2023-2025

The past two years have seen considerable progress toward implementing the TPS. Some key outcomes include:

- Formalization of our areas of scholarly excellence, and creation of a specific internal grant offering to support the growth of these areas.
- Circulation of the internal grants survey from May to September 2024 to inform decision-making and to gain faculty feedback and inform decision making for internal grant offerings moving forward.
- Successful hosting of the C2UExpo in May 2025.
- Establishment of the tactical plan implementation working group within the ORS, led by the Associate Vice-President, Research.

- Creation of the Tactical Plan for Scholarship dashboard, capturing metrics for the past three fiscal years. These metrics allow us to identify trends and potential areas to influence.

An overview of progress toward each TPS objective was presented at the GFC Standing Committee on Scholarly Activity meetings during the 2024-2025 academic year. Some key initiatives, established as priorities by the tactical plan implementation working group include, but are not limited to:

<p>Fostering Talent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanism created to monitor the success rate of Early Career Researchers and to monitor growth in USRI grants. • Introduction of the MacEwan RA Support Fund. • Conducting a scan of existing research partnerships. • Creation of a yearly calendar of offerings for student research events. • Addition of research-related opportunities in the Student Experience Record. • Growth from one to four Canada Research Chairs since 2020. 	<p>Breaking Down Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the ORX event series to connect faculty with community partners and further interdisciplinary scholarship and research impact. • Three research groups were approved by the GFC Standing Committee on Scholarly Activity during the 2024-2025 academic year. • Creation of an internal grant adjudication rubric, which has been revised in line with subcommittee feedback and to provide better guidance for adjudicating creative activity internal grant applications. • Creation of a form for faculty seeking assistance with the legalities surrounding research agreements with external organizations.
<p>Reinforcing Research Supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring growth in faculty requesting external review prior to submission for external funding applications. • Hiring administrative support for the Canada Research Chairs. • Hiring an additional ORS summer research assistant. • Establishing the Student Research Engagement Working Group. • Redesign of the ORS Resources webpage to provide central access to supports for data management, statistical analysis and visualization, research security, knowledge mobilization and research impact, community-based research, and institutional policies relating to research and creative activities. • Establishment of the new aquatic facility. 	<p>Celebrating Scholarship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of YouTube videos for the Research Recast(ed) podcast. • ORS social media engagement on Instagram, LinkedIn, and X. • Development of the Emerging Scholar Award, and continued administration of the Distinguished Researcher Award and Chancellor’s Research Chairs. • Annual Month of Scholarship and Student Research Day events. • Working with the Office of Communications and Marketing to facilitate research-related stories and content.