

## Royal Roads University Policy

First implemented:

March 19, 2008

Approved By:

Academic Council

Office of Oversight:

Vice-President Academic

### Preamble and Purpose

Research is identified in the Royal Roads University Act (1996) as one of the University's three stated purposes, i.e., "to maintain teaching excellence and research activities that support the University's programs in response to labour market needs of British Columbia." The Board of Governors approved a research policy in 1998 that positions research as fundamental to the mandate of the University. The policy was revised in 2002, emphasizing the integral role research plays in RRU's strategic direction, reaffirming the importance of research and its contribution to teaching and learning, and noting the contribution of research to economic and social development. "As with all universities, research is critical in underpinning the scholarship, quality and relevance of academic programs .... At Royal Roads, it is complementary to and integrated with our teaching programs, further enhancing our reputation and underlining our credibility in academic and other circles. As such, our applied research model is highly interdisciplinary and focuses on real world problems with immediate outcomes" (2006-2010 Strategic Plan). As a result, the majority of faculty and student research is action oriented and problem solving, focusing on immediate social and environmental issues in BC, Canada, and internationally.

Through extensive university-wide consultation processes, research clusters have been identified to assist in providing areas of focus for RRU research. As outlined in the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan, these clusters are currently focused around: 1) learning and innovation and 2) sustainable communities and societies. Research is structured in several ways, ranging from individual research projects, to informal groups of researchers with similar interests, to more formal research collaborations.

In order to provide further coherence and organization, as well as to profile and showcase the research conducted at Royal Roads University, this policy guides the establishment and designation of Chairs, Professorships and Lectureships/Fellowships. The principal criterion governing the establishment of these positions is that they advance the University's academic and research goals and objectives while simultaneously being responsive to opportunity and need. This policy also provides the University an opportunity to recognize a benefactor or to honor a scholar.

### Definitions

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## Externally sponsored

1. **Endowed Chairs** – endowment funds provided either in whole or in part by private and/or corporate donors to support researchers focusing on specific topics of interest and established by agreement among a donor and the University and the university foundation.
2. **Term Funded Chairs** – funding provided either in whole or in part by private and/or corporate donors to support researchers focusing on specific topics of interest and established by agreement among a donor and the University and the university foundation.
3. **Endowed Professorships** – endowment funds provided either in whole or in part by private and/or corporate donors to support researchers focusing on specific topics of interest and established by agreement among a donor and the University and the university foundation.
4. **Term Funded Professorships** – funding provided either in whole or in part and by private and/or corporate donors to support researchers focusing on specific topics of interest and established by agreement among a donor and the University and the university foundation.
5. **Term Funded Lectureships/Fellowships** – funded in whole or in part for a time limited period between the donor and the university and the university foundation.

The University may wish to honour a corporate or individual benefactor, a prominent scholar or individual(s) through a formal naming of an endowed or designated appointment. In such cases, the provincial government's policies/processes on naming shall apply.

## University sponsored

1. **University Professorships** – awarded to a current core faculty member to recognize excellence. University professorships are not externally funded.
2. **Visiting Professorship** – normally this is an honorary position with no salary remuneration.

## Other Federally or Provincially Funded Chairs and Professorships

This policy does not include processes for the establishment and review of federally and provincially funded chairs such as the Canada Research Chair program.

## Departmental and other School Chairs

This policy does not include processes related to the appointment of departmental chairs and equivalents and related positions (for example Program Leads, School Directors, etc.).

## Policy

1. Royal Roads University encourages the establishment of Chairs, Professorships and Lectureships/Fellowships which relate to its research mandate and identified research

themes.

2. An interdisciplinary and applied scope is expected.
3. The holder of a Chair or Professorship normally holds an academic appointment and therefore is expected to meet academic hiring criteria for such academic appointment.
4. The holder of a Chair, Professorship or Lectureships/Fellowships is expected to have demonstrated excellence in a field of interest through teaching, research and scholarship. The holder will advance that field of interest within the university through their appointment and mentor and provide leadership in the area as appropriate.
5. All Chair, Professorship or Lectureships/Fellowship appointments normally will, in the first instance, be term specific as per the terms of the RRU Collective Agreement.
6. Funding shall be sufficient to provide for the costs of the Chair, Professorship or Lectureships/Fellowships. This funding may be secured from a benefactor or funding agency endowment, an endowment from the university foundation, internal funds, or a combination of these sources.
7. Any resource-allocation implications for a Chair, Professorship or Lectureships/Fellowships shall be incorporated in the budgetary and other planning processes of the appropriate school or faculty and the Office of Research.
8. All Chairs, Professorships and Lectureships/Fellowships shall be regularly reviewed by the appropriate approval and review bodies and are subject to this policy's principles and procedures.
9. With the exception of University Professorships, Lectureships/Fellowships, and Visiting Professorships, the establishment of a Chair or Professorship normally shall not be tied to the appointment of a particular individual.
10. From their inception, a Chair, Professorship, or Lectureships/Fellowships will normally be attached to a school, faculty, or centre.
11. Chairs and Professorships may be established jointly among RRU schools or among RRU Faculties.
12. Chairs and Professorships may be established jointly with other universities or other organizations based on terms jointly agreed upon by the parties.
13. While the appointment of Chairs allow for greater concentration on research and scholarly activity than offered by a regular appointment, a reasonable commitment to teaching is expected.
14. Donor input into the establishment and implementation of endowed and funded Chairs, providing that standard RRU policies and procedures take precedent.

## Criteria for selection and appointment

### Externally Sponsored

#### 1. **Endowed and Term Funded Chairs**

The candidate must be a distinguished scholar who has achieved recognition well above the criteria for full professor and be considered one of the best scholars in their field. The candidate will be known and respected nationally and internationally by scholars in their discipline.

The candidate must also meet the criteria established by the donor as set forth in the Plan for establishing the Chair (see Appendix A for plan details).

### **Endowed and Term Funded Professorships**

The candidate must be an outstanding faculty member or potential faculty member who has achieved recognition well above the criteria for full or associate professor and be considered one of the best scholars in their field. Distinguished professors will be known and respected nationally and internationally by scholars in their field.

The candidate must also meet the criteria established by the donor as set forth in the Plan for establishing the Professorship (see Appendix A for plan details).

### **Funded Lectureships/Fellowships**

The candidate must be a recognized scholar in their field.

## **University Sponsored**

### **University Professor**

The candidate will have attained all the criteria for a Professor and, in addition, have improved the quality of RRU and served its mission through teaching, research, service and involvement in the campus community. Normally, there are no specific funds necessarily associated with or supporting this honor.

### **Visiting Professor**

The candidate must have demonstrated scholarship in a field of inquiry.

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