



## Office of Research and Graduate Studies Quality Assurance Review

### Executive Summary

On October 3, 2016, a letter from the Vice-President Academic (Provost) (VPA&P) at the time, Dr. Dale Keefe, was sent to the Dean of Research, Teaching & Graduate Studies, Dr. Tanya Brann-Barrett, launching a review of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS). In response to this, Dr. Brann-Barrett oversaw the implementation of the ORGS Review Committee (RC) in November 2016. Work on the self-study review commenced in December 2016.

The first full draft of the self-study report was distributed to the Quality Assurance Committee of Senate (QAC) on February 6, 2018. Revisions were suggested and the finalized report was submitted to the Office of the VPA&P on April 3, 2018. This report was sent to the external reviewers in preparation for the external site visit.

The site visit took place on April 18-19, 2018. The two external reviewers – Dr. Anna Redden, Dean of Research & Graduate Studies, Acadia University, and Dr. Neil Emery, Vice President, Research & Innovation, Trent University - were assisted by CBU faculty member, Dr. Peter MacIntyre. The visit involved meetings with a broad cross-section of faculty, staff, and students, as well as a campus tour of relevant research facilities.

The reviewers' report includes a number of findings and recommendations that can be grouped into seven areas: the scope of the unit; graduate studies/graduate programming; student research opportunities; research supports to faculty; communication and promotion; the Research Ethics Board (REB); and the Verschuren Centre.

#### **1. Scope of the Dean's Portfolio**

##### **Recommendation:**

- 1.1 Reconsider whether the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) should remain under the Dean of Research, Teaching and Graduate Studies

#### **2. Graduate Studies/Graduate Programming Recommendations**

##### **Recommendations:**

- 2.1 Direct more attention and resources to the area of graduate studies
- 2.2 Support the development of new graduate programs at CBU

### **3. Student Research Opportunities**

#### **Recommendation:**

3.1 Do more to connect undergraduate students to research opportunities, increasing the number of students gaining research experience.

### **4. Research Supports to Faculty**

#### **Recommendations:**

4.1 Improve post-award relationships with faculty

4.2 Engage research chairs as faculty mentors

4.3 Increase the level of start-up funding for new faculty

### **5. Communications and Promotion**

#### **Recommendation:**

5.1 Expand the capacity within the ORGS to better promote and communicate the research taking place by university researchers.

### **6. The Research Ethics Board**

#### **Recommendation:**

6.1 Streamline the Research Ethics Board (REB), especially for student proposals.

### **7. Relationship with the Verschuren Centre for Sustainability in Energy and Environment (VCSEE)**

#### **Recommendation:**

7.1 Realign the relationship with the VCSEE to bring closer relationships with the core University enterprise

The ORGS RC submitted a response to the external reviewers' report to the Office of the VPA&P on February 7, 2019. The response was reviewed by the QAC, together with the external reviewers' report. The QAC submitted comments to the VPA&P for consideration in his response. The final report was submitted to Senate for approval at the May 2, 2019 meeting.