

The Faculty Research Activities Committee has had an enthusiastic and energetic first year. Created as an outcome of the Eight Academic Review, and voted into existence as a standing committee of Faculty Council, FRAC has for its mandate to:

1. identify particular research 'niches' that are consistent with the College's overall mission which should be highlighted and supported;
2. explore the possibility of a rotating research fellow position and/or endowed research chair at the College;
3. review the current teaching-research balance at the College and make recommendations to Faculty Council on how the research profile of the College might be enhanced in order to enrich the College's undergraduate and graduate teaching obligations;
4. evaluate the feasibility of creating a Research Office at the College; and
5. make recommendations to Faculty Council concerning the College's research plan.

In that spirit the committee embarked upon a concrete strategy to enable it to fulfill its mission. At the beginning of the year the committee members discussed each of the elements of its mandate and we quickly became convinced that there were important shifts and changes of perspective occurring at King's, but that these were difficult to define. The committee came to the unanimous conclusion that we needed a mechanism to explore the general faculty members' understanding and perception of the various issues before us.

To do this we opted to create a survey asking faculty members' opinions about a variety of topics directly related to research at King's. It took the committee a few meetings to develop a questionnaire and we submitted the survey to full-time faculty in the New Year. We were very pleased that 58 of our faculty took the time to respond to the survey. The compilation of results is attached and we hope to continue to discuss those results in the larger King's community and as a committee.

Beyond our focus on developing the survey and interpreting the results, the committee also discussed different themes intermittently at the various meetings. Those issues included: publications, the research profile of the College on our website, and coordination between the FRAC, the library's faculty publications dissemination, and the faculty research seminar. Part of the committee's mandate is also to revisit the College's Research Plan to ascertain that it reflects our research strengths and the underlying mission of the College as it relates to faculty and student research. We also want to ensure that the Research Activities Committee promotes a research culture at King's and helps faculty develop increased funding opportunities for research initiatives.

Finally, the research survey also provided hard data regarding the nature of the research being done at King's already. We plan to further analyze that data to develop a series of research niches and to help foster the network of researchers that already exists at Kings, nationally, and internationally.

While much of the year was spent in gathering data and speaking with the larger community regarding research activities at King's, the committee continues its commitment to help foster a rich and vibrant research environment at King's.

To this end, we anticipate bringing forward a series of recommendations for Faculty Council at the beginning of the next academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of this committee. We dealt with sometimes controversial issues as we probed into the question of research and its place at King's. We did this in a spirit of collegiality and respect, coupled with good humour and dedication. I was heartened to participate in such a smoothly functioning committee and I want to thank my colleagues for their grace and generosity.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, Faculty Research Activities Committee