

SMU Strategic Research Plan (SRP)

Renewal: 2021-26 <draft>

- **First SRP in 1999, last renewal in 2012** – mandated requirement for Canada Research Chair (CRC) and Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) federal granting programs
- **Fits within context of:** *internal plans* – University Strategic Plan, Academic Plan, CRC EDI Action Plan, Faculty Strategic Plans; and *external priorities* – e.g. Research NS research strategy, UN SDGs
- **Informed from variety of inputs from faculty/community** (over last few years!): workshops/townhalls for Ac. Plan, SRP and setting Advancement priorities; as well as specific assistance of Cognitive Edge Pte LTD utilizing SenseMaker® ... with lots of informative data like this:



Strategic Research Plan Renewal: 2021-26

Research Mission (maintained unchanged):

To engage in research that applies to, and is valued by communities from around the corner, to around the world, and that cultivates intellectual curiosity and creativity of our faculty and students.

SRP supports these 4 Research Objectives:

To promote institutional priorities, and domains of particular research strength, through the identification of Major Research Themes;

To support the research work of as many SMU faculty as possible across the broad disciplinary spectrum, with attention to barriers to success equity-deserving groups may face;

To ensure that undergraduate and graduate students benefit from research activities;

To encourage the building of collaborative networks of researchers that promote development both of new initiatives and ideas in support of the Major Research Themes, and of entirely new directions in whichever area they may arise.

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5 Major Research Themes:

- Climate Change and the Environment – Monitoring, Impact Assessment, Solutions
- Connecting to Communities - Engaging, Partnering, Supporting Atlantic Canada communities
- Innovative Science – Exploring Fundamentals, Developing Applications
- Modern Global Citizenship Issues – Migration, Development, Big Data
- Innovation in Business and Workplace Studies

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Actions:

- Annual workshops associated with each of the 5 Major Research Themes
- Support community-engaged research: direct research office support staff time; plus active participation and support of the CLARI initiative
- Engage in development of university diversity and equity strategies: ensure opportunities/programs for research mentorship and network building; develop holistic, inclusive graduate admission policies.
- Align annual FGSR Internal Research grant program toward specific/targeted calls toward Major Research Theme areas
- Hire Research Grants Facilitator to enhance support for faculty
- Establish a Research Supervision Award to promote excellence in student research training
- Establish Research Advisory Council