

University of Calgary Commitment to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment

Submitted to DORA Steering Committee, November 2022

The University of Calgary signed the Declaration on Research Assessment in January 2021, and we are committed to implementing the recommendations of DORA in a way that reflects the diversity and priorities of our research community. Our signing of DORA was described in March 2021 in a [UCalgary news story](#).

Implementation and engagement efforts are led by the Vice-President (Research), Dr. William Ghali; he has appointed two Associate Vice-Presidents (Research), Drs. Marcello Tonelli (Professor, Cumming School of Medicine) and Penny Pexman (Professor, Faculty of Arts) to oversee these efforts. Two full-time staff positions have been created to support this work and are housed within the Knowledge Engagement unit in Research Services. In addition, the Vice-President (Research) has named a DORA/Research Impact Assessment Working Group to consider how DORA recommendations may be most effectively integrated into our research practices and culture. The Working Group is comprised of faculty members, staff and leadership from various faculties and includes representatives from the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Communications and Marketing, among others. The university has also engaged the expertise of an external consultant, Dr. Kathryn Graham, Executive Director of the Impact Action Lab at Alberta Innovates and co-founder of the International School on Research Impact Assessment. The Working Group has discussed current policies and practices in research assessment, DORA Case Studies, DORA tools and techniques, and impact frameworks. The Working Group regularly consults with other units, including the Associate Deans (Research) Council, Office of the Provost, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, among others, to share recommendations and guidance that can inform official policies and practices.

In June 2021, DORA recommendations were incorporated into an updated version of the General Faculties Council Academic Staff Criteria & Processes Handbook, which forms the template for Guidelines developed by each of the University's 14 Faculties. The first statement in the Handbook section "Criteria for Appointment, Renewal, Transfer, Tenure, Promotion, and Merit Assessment" now reads,

In keeping with the commitment of the University of Calgary to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), research and scholarship activities shall be evaluated based on the quality of the research and scholarship, relying on robust tools and approaches to assessing research quality and impact, rather than on bibliometrics alone. This includes considering the merit of all research and scholarship outputs as well as a broad range of qualitative impact indicators such as influence on policy and practice.

The campus community is kept informed of our progress on the implementation of DORA recommendations through a [website](#) that details our 5-stage DORA implementation plan, and webinars and listening sessions that will be scheduled in each Faculty in the coming months. Externally, the university presented our DORA approach at the Research Impact Canada Annual Meeting (Winnipeg, Canada) and to international research partners in Lausanne, Switzerland in September 2022 to build awareness and gather feedback from our broader research ecosystems.

The University of Calgary strongly endorses the recommendations of DORA, and we look forward to engaging more closely with DORA staff, signers and other supporting organizations. We recognize that culture and policy changes take time and remain committed to continuing this work in a good way in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marcello Tonelli, MD, SM, and Dr. Penny Pexman, PhD

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