- (c) Focus faculty search initiatives to:
 - fill new and replacement positions with candidates who have excellent records of research and scholarly work, and;
 - seek funding for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair.
- (d) Provide reductions in teaching for research purposes and internal research grants.
- (e) Encourage faculty in seeking external research grants to support their research, including grants from SSHRC, NSERC, and other sources.
- (f) Provide sufficient and appropriate space, resources, and infrastructure to support research.

2. Facilitate collaboration

Concordia will:

- a) Identify and encourage areas of research and scholarly collaboration, including possibilities for
 - i) Collaborations of faculty within a single discipline at Concordia.
 - ii) Interdisciplinary collaborations at Concordia.
 - iii) Cross-institutional collaborations within Canada.
 - iv) International cross-institutional research collaborations.
- b) Take advantage of Concordia's small scale to promote faculty/student research opportunities and collaborations.
- c) Cultivate and develop unique undergraduate and graduate programs that engage students in creative research.
- d) Pursue community and business ties to encourage more community involvement and research partnerships with Concordia.

3. Enhance the profile of research and scholarship at Concordia internally and publically. Concordia will:

- (a) Develop campus-wide as well as intra-departmental opportunities for scholarly exchanges.
- (b) Host scholarly conferences and artistic performances.
- (c) Invite internationally recognized scholars as visitors to Concordia.
- (d) Develop mechanisms for sharing Concordia research and scholarly achievements internally and with the general public outside of the Concordia community.
- (e) Promote Concordia-based publications (for example, develop the new Concordia-based Canadian Journal for Scholarship and the Christian Faith).
- (f) Encourage faculty to publish a greater quantity of their research in appropriate outlets, including but not limited to reputable peer-reviewed scholarly journals and scholarly books.
- (g) Highlight Concordia faculty research and scholarly accomplishments in the general media.

4. Focus on areas of research strength while respecting individual research agendas.

A process of consultation with faculty has led to the identification of the following research themes, based on Concordia's existing strengths and potential areas of excellence:

- a) The scholarship of learning and teaching
- b) Ethics and social responsibility
- c) Scholarship and the Christian faith

A Canada Research Chair at Concordia

Concordia University College of Alberta has to date not held a Canada Research Chair. We are currently allocated one Tier 2 Canada Research Chair position that may be allocated to any research focus area in the institution. It is our intention to nominate a candidate who is researching in one of our identified areas of strength for the April 2014 nomination period. A Canada Research Chair at Concordia would be advantageous in that such a position would raise the overall internal and public profile of research at Concordia by contributing

presentation at the University of Leicester on the topic of "Back to the Future: Learning Psychology in 2025". He has been converting his teaching material to on-line video modelled after the Khan Academy YouTube videos. Dr. Jamie Dyce (Psychology) has developed successful methodologies for teaching his courses online and creating education DVD's. Dr. Wendy Pullin (Psychology) is authoring an undergraduate text, *Qualitative and Mixed Methods*. Dr. John Jayachandran (Sociology) is working on indexing Statistics Canada's General Social Survey topics for faculty and student use.

Outside of the university sphere Dr. Caroline Howarth (Drama) with Mieko Ouchi are artistic codirectors and writers for the world premiere play for Concrete Theater: *The Bully Project*. The play will launch in Alberta junior high schools March to April, 2014 and represents a new approach to engaging with the issue of bullying in schools.

In the

Jayachandran (also in Sociology) is working on two papers tentatively titled, "Balancing Work and Family in Canada, and Determinants of Life Satisfaction".

In the <u>Faculty of Education</u> Dr. Tim Loreman is lead and co-researcher on a variety of projects including studies examining inclusive education for children with disabilities in Alberta, Ukraine, and recently the Pacific Islands. In 2013, Dr. Loreman co-authored an article, "Measuring Teacher Efficacy to Implement Inclusive Practices: An International Validation", in the *Journal of Research in Special Needs Education*. Mr. Edgar Schmidt is conducting research on school and family experience with 'wrap-around' services to children and the extent to which policy and information from government is consistent with that experience. The work of Dr. Loreman and Mr. Schmidt focuses largely on the K-12 education system.

In the <u>Faculty of Science</u> Dr. Karen McDonald (Public Health) undertakes research projects on air quality and the associated ecosystem and health impacts. Her skills in the interpretation of physical problems and the establishment of effective strategies have received provincial and national awards. The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors recently recognized Dr. McDonald as being a person that has shown passion and commitment, and excelled at advancing the role of the Public Health Inspector. Dr. McDonald has authored a chapter in the *Handbook of Metropolitan Sustainability: Understanding and Improving the Urban Environment* and an article in the *Journal of Environmental Management*.

In the <u>Faculty of Management</u> Dr. Mark Loo has published articles examining the area of global competitiveness in business. This work explores issues of international relations and how negotiations are conducted at various levels. Recent publications include "Global Competitiveness: Top Five Nations Last Decade and Next Decade," in the *International Journal of Business and Management Studies* and

Wittgenstein and Theology and, Wittgenstein's Religious Point of View. Dr. Labron has three books in progress. Dr. Travis Dumsday also approaches the Christian Faith from a philosophical standpoint. He continues to work on cosmological arguments for theism, the problem of divine hiddenness, and the epistemology of religious experience. Much of his work focuses on metaphysical questions arising from science. Some of his recent publications include "Why (most) atheists have a duty to pray" in *Sophia: International Journal for Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysical Theology and Ethics* and "Using natural-kind essentialism to defend dispositionalism" in *Erkenntnis*.

Dr. Steven Muir's research areas are Early Christianity in the Greco-Roman world, New Testament and early Patristic studies, and methodology in the study of religion (anthropology, sociology). He has a forthcoming chapter, "Medicine and Disease" in *A Cultural History of Women Volume 1: 500 BCE-1000 CE*. Dr. Muir shares his interest and expertise in the study of religion at conferences for the Society of Biblical Literature, The University of St. Andrews, The Canadian Society of Biblical Studies, and The Context Group in Portland. He currently has a book project underway. Dr. John Maxfield's research focuses on the history of Christianity, in particular on Martin Luther and the Reformation. He has frequently participated in conferences and edited conference proceedings that relate scholarship to the contemporary life of the Christian church, and he serves as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Lutheran Historical Institute. His recent publications include the chapter "Martin Luther and Idolatry" in *The Reformation As Christianization*, and the essay "Christ at the Center in Luther's Interpretation of Old Testament Prophecy and Narratives." His most significant publication is the monograph *Luther's Lectures on Genesis and the Formation of Evangelical Identity*, published by Truman State University Press.

Outside of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department Dr. Dorothy Steffler (psychology) is working on a project funded by the SSHRC ASU g

- Didactics of Mathematics and Mathematics Education.
- The Use of Technology in Mathematics Education, Development and Production of Electronic Teaching Aids (Using Computer Algebra Systems) for Mathematics Programs.
- Development and Production of Electronic Teaching Aids (Using Computer Algebra Systems) for Mathematics Programs.
- Mathematics Enrichment (Clubs, Circles, Competitions) for Students in Grades 1-12.
- Computational Tools for Inverse and Fluid Flow Problems.

There is a strong multi-disciplinary approach in the Biology and Environmental Science program.

- a) In partnership with the International Office identify areas for and facilitate the conduct of international research collaborations.
- b) Provide assistance to faculty wishing to work with colleagues at other Canadian institutions.
- c) Provide research grants to assist Concordia students involved in collaborative research with faculty.
- d) Continue to participate in NSERCs Undergraduate Student Research Award program to enable students to work on research with faculty members in the Faculty of Science.
- e) Set up research 'clusters' of Concordia faculty interested in working on collaborative projects in a common area. These might be interdisciplinary or within disciplines.
- f) Provide informal opportunities for Departments to meet to discuss their research.
- g) Consider how internal research grants might be used to facilitate collaborative research activities.
- h) Work with the Dean of Graduate Studies and Program Development to identify areas of potential student-faculty research collaboration in existing programs or those under development.

- 1. Recognition that engaging in research and scholarship is something that all faculty members must do in order to fulfill their job requirements.
- 2. Administrative and infrastructure assistance and coordination from the Office of Research and Faculty Development.
- 3. Internal support for research through project funding. Awards are assigned on a competitive basis.
- 4. Financial support for conference and research travel.
- 5. The maintenance of a Visiting Research Professor program.
- 6. Time-release support through the policy for Reduction in Teaching Assignment for Research Purposes.
- 7. Time-release support through the policy for Sabbatical Leave.
- 8. Support for international research collaborations through Concordia's International Office.

Assessment of Success

The implementation of this Strategic Research Plan is the responsibility of the entire Concordia community. Specifically, it will be the responsibility of the Academic Research Council to evaluate the implementation and progress of the Strategic Research Plan. All faculty members are required to submit an annual report of professional activities, with research activities being reported to the Dean of Research and Faculty Development. These reports, plus the special reports required of the holders of research grants and the recipients of reductions in teaching, will allow the Academic Research Council to monitor and assess the rel