Research excellence, integrity and innovation all feature prominently in the new UBC strategic plan. Enabling a strong and diverse research culture is a responsibility shared by many across the university. Enabling innovation through commercialization, entrepreneurship and knowledge exchange pathways is a key deliverable for the university. UBC has solid policy foundations to draw on in order to help a research and innovation culture of the highest integrity. Policy 88: Inventions & Discoveries, Policy 87: Research, Policy 97: Conflicts of Interest & Conflicts of Commitment, and Policy 85: Scholarly Integrity all provide direction and set expectations that contribute to a strong research and innovation culture. Policy, though, is not enough to shape and build the culture imagined in the strategic plan. Proactive, constructive outreach and programming that supplements the policy framework will help enable that culture.

The VPRI Office, in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, proposes to operationalize two initiatives that will strengthen and reinforce a high integrity culture of research excellence and innovation to deliver on key elements of Shaping UBC’s Next Century through: 1) Promotion and raising awareness of the responsible conduct of research; 2) Clear communication of the policies, procedures and best practices around commercialization and entrepreneurship pathways to innovation.

With respect to research integrity, over the past five years there have been approximately 8-10 allegations of scholarly misconduct brought forward under Policy 85 each year. From these, there are typically two to four findings of misconduct. The nature of the allegations and subsequent findings of misconduct varies from plagiarism to data manipulation to inappropriate attribution of authorship. Anecdotally, our experience at UBC is consistent with the size of our research enterprise when compared with other U15 universities in Canada in terms of the
nature and volume of allegations and findings. At UBC, the VPRI has a responsibility to promote education on and awareness of the importance of the responsible conduct of research. This responsibility is based formally in the *Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research* (2016 - The Framework), though by any standard, enabling responsible research should be a goal for any university. At present, there are no central resources at UBC dedicated to fulfilling this responsibility.

With respect to innovation, a 2017 report from UBC Internal Audit recommended that “a working group be established...to develop and coordinate policies, procedures and best practices to address the risks associated with spin-off companies and other ventures created by or involving UBC faculty." This working group has been active over the past year and has created a number of tools which can serve as the basis for the procedures and best practices recommended by Internal Audit. Consultation on and implementation of this working group's recommended strategies is the current priority. A dedicated resource to operationalize the working group's thinking to date will help ensure timely implementation of the Internal Audit recommendation.

With dedicated resources, there is an opportunity to establish new educational and promotional material for the university to help enable the research culture and support the core values envisioned in the strategic plan. A top-priority would be an enhanced web presence on the research.ubc.ca and innovation.ubc.ca sites dedicated to the two streams of activity described above. These pages could become go-to sources of information and could include:

- Links to relevant policies and regulations;
- Information about the interpretation and administration of relevant policies;
- Tools and checklists for researchers;
- Links to other known UBC programs (e.g. Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies; entrepreneurship@UBC); and
- A portal to request an in-service or guest lecture on these topics.

A second priority would be to develop a suite of educational and promotional materials about the responsible conduct of research. This could include slide presentations, discipline-specific case studies, checklists, curated bibliographies and a curated list of external training opportunities conferences, etc. In the medium-term (2-3 years), a self-service area on the webpages described above could be implemented: UBC staff, students and faculty could access the educational and promotional material for individual or in-class use. Preparatory work to enable this would include marketing and promoting the self-service model, and implementing and evaluating train-the-trainer learning opportunities.

The person(s) to fill this role would have expertise in the preparation, delivery and evaluation of responsible conduct of research education and in successful, responsible commercialization of academic research. A small advisory committee would be established to guide the incumbent(s) and the VPRI Office on how to prioritize and implement the work described here. The proposed budget allows for the possibility that some of this expertise will be out-sourced, either because of constraints on internal capacity or requirements for specific expertise (e.g. web design).

This project is a two-year initiative. Year one will be focused on establishing basic educational and promotional frameworks and the related and necessary consultations and communications to set up successful implementation. Year two will consider opportunities to integrate with other programs on campus, such as the mandatory Responsible Conduct of Research program for
How does this project support the themes?

Collaboration: Responsible research conduct is enabled by a culture that facilitates, demonstrates and expects the highest degree of integrity. Such an organizational culture can only be achieved through the collaboration of like-minded scholars, students, trainees and staff, all of whom will bring unique perspectives on how to foster such a culture. This project will support collaboration through a comprehensive, cross-disciplinary approach to the development and implementation of educational and promotional material.

Inclusion: Responsible scholarship takes different forms in different areas of study. People’s lived-experience combined with their area of study will generate perspectives on how to deliver meaningful educational programming that will resonate with a diverse audience. Respectful collaboration with research stakeholders is fundamental to research integrity, and will be reflected in the programming and materials imagined here. This project will support inclusion by ensuring that all educational and promotional material meet accessibility standards.

Innovation: Responsible innovation and a culture that embraces research integrity is fundamental to the research ecosystem at UBC. Societal expectations that a university make tangible contributions to important social problems are growing, along with expectations that university research is conducted with the utmost integrity and to the highest ethical standards. This project will help enable responsible research and innovation across the array of academic disciplines at which UBC excels.

What will be different as a result of this project?

- This project will result in a coordinated, centralized, curated set of educational and promotional resources to help enable the responsible conduct of research across the university;
- This project will deliver on the recommendations of the Internal Audit team and result in policies, guidelines and practices to address the risks associated with spinoff companies and other ventures created by or involving UBC faculty.
**WHAT ARE OUR KEY METRICS?**

**HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL?**

- As this is a developmental project, key metrics will relate primarily to the process by which the framework described here is created:
- Achievement of milestones and deliverables as set out in a project plan;
- Number and diversity of stakeholders consulted; and
- Number and type of resources developed.
- Once implemented (after year one), other metrics will become important:
- Webpage traffic, including page views, downloads, etc.;
- Milestones and deliverables related to new material made available on the page;
- Requests for in-services/hosted training.

**IF A PILOT, HOW WILL THE RESULTS OF THE PILOT BE USED?**

N/A

*What will happen if the pilot is unsuccessful? If successful, how will the pilot result in sustainable change?*