

University Research Council Minutes
Thursday, December 8, 2016
2:00 – 4:30 pm
Mills Library, 3rd Floor, Room L304

In attendance:

Rob Baker, Bonny Ibhawoh, Steve Collins, Pamela Swett, John Preston, Gillian Goward, Doug Welch, Vivian Lewis, Zach Douglas, Nick Markettos, Ranil Sonnadara, Gay Yuyitung, Greg Weiler, Kathy Charters, Susan Munro, Lori Dillon

Regrets: Peter Mascher, Tony Porter, Naresh Agarwal

1. Minutes of University Research Council Meeting of October 3, 2016 – approved

2. Report by VP Research

- Rob Baker advised that he attended the U15 Research Committee and National VPR Meetings. Discussion notes from these meetings included:
 - Applications on CRC appointments: More emphasis on diversity and equity. McMaster Equity Officer to work on policies;
 - Calls for research in climate change;
 - Focus on migration/refugees; sustainable food supplies; sustainable cities.
 - Basic Science Review coming later
 - TriCouncil and CFI: Sharing of strategies; better integration; one branding agency?
 - \$800M Cluster Support Announcement by Assistant Deputy Minister (Provincial). Three to five successful appointments; maybe as many as 8; “Platforms” mentioned by ADM; industry led – more modernized – more broad – usable in a variety of sectors; large platforms in Australia; no calls or further information; had many questions about it.
 - Simon Kennedy, Minister of Health talked about CIHR – talks about hints/changes in leadership; Basic Science review will have no impact on CIHR; interests by Health Ministry; Indigenous issues; abuse of prescription drugs
 - Province talks about AMC (in Budget speech) but not to Treasury Board. In a state of flux. Call for Chief Science Officer.
- John Preston asked what the timeline was for the McMaster Vice-Provost, Equity and Inclusion. Maybe in January.
- CRCs and selection: Kathy Charters met with Susan Giroux and Shilo (HR). Possible Handbook to be issued by Susan Giroux. Kathy waiting for some text from Susan Giroux.

3. Search and Terms of Reference for Associate VP (Research)

- Rob Baker shared that Bonny Ibhawoh is returning to Humanities as Associate Dean, Research. Will go 6 months without an AVPR; selection coming up; need to understand what the role will be. Committee to set the Terms of Reference. The AVPR will be responsible/authorized for specific areas.
- R. Baker asked thoughts about the position:
 - Bonny Ibhawoh stated: lot of advocacy; need clarity;
- Need to focus on Prizes and Awards – need full time and skilled person for writing, interviewing people, contact award secretariats;
- AVPR to start in July
- B. Ibhawoh: Interdisciplinary research - Small pot of funds
- R. Baker: Interdisciplinary funds are from President. Will look at discretionary fund for possibly leveraging interdisciplinary research.
- Greg Weiler: Metrics
- R. Baker noted that Jacy Lee is creating a Dashboard. Need to have comparatives – data from other universities. Kathy Charters and Jacy are working on data. Need to know what we're doing.
- John Preston stated that we need research representation at the Rankings Committee Meetings.
- Components: PR outreach and internal performance
- Rob Baker mentioned that he will create a committee for the AVPR and then select individual. The committee would include 8 members: Associate Dean of Research or senior researcher; ask Dean for input; reps from councils; open minded;
- Greg Weiler asked how the VPR wants to see this position in the future
- R. Baker will draft type of people he wants and layout

4. Strategic Research Plan

- Need to be clear;
- Advancement to be involved;
- Two-part Plan:
 - a) Traditional: Use what we're good at – 6 focus areas – use this format for donors and politicians.
 - b) Internal version to include nuts and bolts. Comments on faculty hiring, comprehensive platforms, grant writing.
- Plan: Identification of areas of strengths/focus. Will roll out after SMA.
- Doug Welch noted that the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) will be developed before the SPR

- John Preston mentioned that Branding should follow SRP. Rob Baker agreed.
- Rob Baker noted that the SRP will be renewed every 5 years (internally)
- Kathy Charters noted that CERC does not request to have the SRP – only if we have one
- R. Baker stated that each Faculty has an SRP. We need to be opportunistic.
- Nick Markettos added that when government changes, Nuts/Bolts can change
- Rob Baker noted that we need an inventory of what we have and who does what –when opportunities come by. Will put thought on preliminary document
- For Committee: Need ADRs, researchers and think about our competitors
- Timeline: Draft for Spring 2017
- Rob Baker noted that it was fine if we had a summary that was approved by PVP
- Look at other universities' plans

5. **Reports from the VPR Team** (Nick Markettos, Kathy Charters, Gay Yuyitung, Susan Munro, Ranil Sonnadara, Lori Dillon)

- Nick Markettos: BEAM Project – Sept. 2017 completion
Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (AMC) Update
- Kathy Charters: Major Science Initiatives Fund. Large Scale Infrastructure: 2 Applications awarded: 1) RDC, 2) CCEM – \$1.74M
Finalization period now; had conference call with team – both awards get full funding for 5 year period; very unusual for anyone to get both
CERC pushback May 2017; external review and internal panel are out; 11 Chairs available now; pending fundamental science review, we will hear if more chairs
- Gay Yuyitung: CECR Program Announcement – \$17M – funding for renewals: only CPDC and CSii
- Susan Munro: Financial Services Review started. Dee Henne, Debbie Martin and Susan Munro are meeting and will be reaching out to PI's and Administrators. Recommendation is due in April 2017. Mandate: McMaster Research Finance, Central Finance, Health Research Finance and Health Sciences Operating Finance
- Ranil Sonnadara: SOSCIP; Post Doc Competition. Apply for 2 year funding – Due Dec.
As long as you have an industrial partner
 - Bonny Ibhawoh: Distribute to student Live. Facebook, Twitter
 - Nick and Ranil have workshops for information
 - Ranil will send out to URC for dissemination
 - Had breach of privacy - student Grades, birthdays, and other student information. Student did a Google search for their name. Ranil is working with UTS if others have taken place.
 - VIVO Project progressing nicely
- Lori Dillon:
 - Prizes and Awards -met with ADRs: what's in place, needs and where we could add value.

- DM MRI Visit: Tours of BI, MMRI, CPDC, MARC. Wants to bring senior team members next time. Invitation to be sent to Mario Pinto (NSERC)
- Bonny Ibhawoh: Interdisciplinary Fund competition: applications were high quality. Can we use a not-for-profit company to leverage? Have Gay Yuyitung on the ID Committee.

6. **Faculty Updates** – Associate Deans, Research

- John Preston shared that he is sitting on the Mayor's Business and Intelligent Community Committee. Hamilton was ranked Top 20 Cities in the world last year.
Goal: Improving access to broadband internet. Meeting is taking place next week to update David Harris-Smith.

7. **Chief Science Officer for Ontario**

- URC to send feedback to questions to VPR as soon as possible
- Greg Weiler mentioned that MRI is interested in job creation
- VPR expressed concern about new Provincial budget model to students - if research funding goes to different ministries.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.