



**University Research Council
Minutes
December 16th, 2013
2:30 – 4:30 pm
MUSC 220**

Attendees:

Mo Elbestawi, Chair
Fiona McNeill
Nick Markettos

Tony Porter
Kathy Charters
Stephen Collins

Barb McKenna
Vivian Lewis
Bonny Ibhawoh

Regrets:

Brent Davis
Elsie Quaite-Randall
Peter Mascher

Greg Weiler
Naresh Agarwal
Gianni Parise

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the University Research Council Meeting of October 7, 2013 (attached)
2. Business Arising/Action Items
3. Library Open Access Issues and Institutional Repository
(Presentation by Vivian Lewis, Gabriela Mircea, and Olga Perkovic)
4. Big Data Analytics – Follow Up/Next Steps
5. DeGroote School of Business Research Activities Update (Kathy Charters for Naresh Agarwal)

MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7TH, 2013

- Dr. Collins motioned to accept the minutes of the October 7, 2013 meeting and Mr. Marketos seconded. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING/ACTION ITEMS FROM OCTOBER 7TH MEETING

1. Each Council member was to send Dr. Elbestawi a 2-3 line description of how they define Big Data Analytics and send feedback on the proposal for a workshop (All Council Members)
 - Dr. Elbestawi received responses and an initial workshop on this subject has taken place. Dr. Elbestawi has responded on behalf of McMaster to the Tri-Council's public consultation on Big Data Analytics.
2. Each Associate Dean of Research was to consider the proposal regarding an Overdraft Fund that was presented by Dr. McNeill and send Dr. McNeill their feedback (All ADRs)
 - Dr. McNeill received feedback from the Associate Deans of Research and the proposal for an Overdraft Fund will not be pursued. Each individual Faculty will be responsible for managing any research account overdrafts independently without the assistance of a central fund.
3. Kathy Charters was to disseminate information regarding CFI funding announcements to the Associate Deans of Research (Kathy Charters)
 - This process is well underway and ROADS is in contact with the Faculties.
4. The Council was to consider a system of metrics and forward suggestions to Dr. Porter who will develop harmonized metrics and bring these for discussion (All and Dr. Porter)
 - This item has been postponed for future discussion.

UPDATE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Dr. Elbestawi was asked to present to PVP on research priorities; he presented the position that the role of the University Research Council is not to set institutional research priorities, this role rests with the Faculties. Rather, the Council seeks to identify and capitalize on interdisciplinary opportunities, including large initiatives such as big data analytics and aging research among others.
- Dr. Elbestawi proposed that because every Faculty is facing the issue of capacity that McMaster should initiate a plan for 15 new professorships; this is a priority for Advancement and Dr. Elbestawi will be meeting with the Vice President, Advancement to discuss. Currently there are two professorships related to bioinformatics and one in renewable energy that are being pursued. It is preferred to avoid endowments as these can become costly and limiting and steps should be taken to leverage professorship contributions with Tri-Council funding, such as the NSERC Industrial Research Chair program, whenever possible.

LIBRARY OPEN ACCESS ISSUES AND INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

- An international movement promoting open access repositories is gaining speed; in the United States, the Obama administration already requires that researchers with federal funding deposit their pre- and post-print articles into open access repositories. In Canada, there are some universities that have senate approved policies supporting research data deposits and the Tri-Council agencies have just completed the public consultation process on this issue. It is anticipated that there will be an increased emphasis on data deposits for Canadian researchers in the near future.
- Gabriela Mircea, and Olga Perkovic presented to the Council on Open Access and the Institutional Repository at McMaster; this presentation is offered to the Faculties by request.

BIG DATA ANALYTICS – FOLLOW UP/NEXT STEPS

- The initial workshop, involving approximately 30 faculty members, has taken place.
- Dr. Elbestawi recommends that a committee be formed that will investigate best practices and liaise other institutions that have established Big Data Analytics programs with the objective of developing an exciting initiative at McMaster that is representative of its talent. Such committee would consist of one representative from each Faculty nominated by the appropriate Associate Dean of Research and a representative from the Library, nominated by Vivian Lewis.
- The committee will develop a vision statement for Big Data Analytics at McMaster within three months; develop a road map for approval at the University Research Council after an additional three months with a final deadline of June 2014.

DEGROOTE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS RESEARCH ACTIVITIES UPDATE (KATHY CHARTERS FOR NARESH AGARWAL)

- Currently, grant applications are sent to ROADS as well as the Research Facilitator from the School of Business to assist with development and review. The Faculty is proposing to establish a peer-support group consisting of approximately 10 members that would review applications and provide feedback on application content prior to submission to a sponsor.
- The Faculty is considering implementing research awards and will develop metrics to measure intellectual contributions
- The Faculty is engaged in discussions regarding interdisciplinary research projects and has identified opportunities that will be developed.
- The Faculty has been actively engaged in knowledge mobilization, providing a number of successful initiatives that include: the seminar series 'Finance @ DeGroote' which is aimed at the business community; 'Fridays with Faculty' which is also aimed at the business community and offered through the Ron Joyce location in Burlington; and 'Knowledge @ DeGroote' which is an online forum enabling open dialogue. The feedback regarding these initiatives has been positive and encouraging and these events have been extremely well attended.

ACTION ITEMS

Item	Responsible
1. Vivian Lewis to contact the Faculties to set up presentations on Open Access and the Institutional Repository	Vivian Lewis
2. Each Associate Dean of Research and Vivian Lewis to nominate a member of their Faculty/Library for the committee on Big Data Analytics and notify Dr. Elbestawi	All Associate Deans of Research and Vivian Lewis