

University Research Council Minutes
Thursday, March 7, 2019
1:00 – 3:30 pm
MUSC 318

In attendance:

Rob Baker (Chair), Peter Mascher, Nick Markettos, Khaled Hassanein, Gianni Parise, Pamela Swett, Jonathan Bramson, James Gillett, Vivian Lewis, Kathy Charters, Tracy Arabski, Sherisse Webb, Ty Shattuck, Lori Dillon, Ranil Sonnadara

Regrets: Karen Mossman, John Preston, Gay Yuyitung, Danelle D'Alvise

***Invited Guests:**

- Maggie Pooran, Director, Employee/Labour Relations, Human Resources
Wanda McKenna, AVP and Chief Human Resources Officer
Andrea Aitchison, Sr. Consultant, Employee/Labour Relations & Dispute Resolution
 - Lorna Somers, AVP Development, University Advancement
Mary Williams, VP, University Advancement
Shelly Easton, Manager, Communications, University Advancement
1. **Collecting Bargaining 2019 – Consultation on Key Interests and Priorities for Research as it Relates to the UNIFOR Unit 1 Bargaining Unit (M. Pooran, W. McKenna, A. Hutchison)**
 - UNIFOR Unit 1- Open consultation in April and require input. Jerry Hurley. Question on current issues and what works well. UNIFOR starts early April and not seeking radical changes. What does URC see as problematic or concerns. URC member inquired on the team composition. Consultation session with them. Andrea met with small group of researchers. Issues heard included collective agreement, probationary period, and timelines flexibility. Animal care services are a unique issue. Flexibility need with hiring people. Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of clarity in the instructions for completing the required recruitment process forms, such as the resume screening tool and candidate assessment form. Job Descriptions don't quite fit. HR and VPR to discuss this.
 2. **Minutes of University Research Council Meetings of January 9, 2019 - approved**
 3. **Report by VP Research**
 - Research Centres and Institutes reporting to the VPR – return to Faculties. Item will be brought forward to Provost Council and then back to URC.

- Ongoing discussion on research contracts with China. If any firm is legal to work in Canada, then we can interact with them. Guidelines developed on what to watch for; Canadian document to be discussed at U15 Research Committee Meeting in April. People have expressed concerns; will know more in future.
- CFI proposal – new equipment for Reactor – Neutron Scattering. 15 universities chipping in to purchase. Require governance structure on how to operate this. Upcoming teleconference with these universities' VPRs. Call not out yet, but universities have started to think about it. McMaster is the only place with a Reactor; Chalk River is closed, so this is important.

4. **Brighter World Research Initiative (BWRI) Update (L. Somers, M. Williams, S. Easton)**

- BWRI is more than gifts and to bring funds in for the SRP priorities. Need for resources for research enterprise is now academically owned; take it outside. Need focused interdisciplinary opportunities. That update today is follow up and next steps. Academy will come in with own priorities; funders have their own priorities too. VPR and Provost leading this initiative. Exclusive focus on research and excellence in research; institutional initiative.
- Five thematic areas – leadership involved in all and supported by Lorna Somers and Shelly Easton. Went to the Deans to call all the groups together and then back to the big group. What are the vehicles for these (Chairs, PDFs, equipment)? Over the summer, the big group will meet over a retreat on August 19 and 20 with ideas brought together.
- Big Debut – later with big groups – alumni. “Dragons Den” environment.
- Past campaigns were led by President. This is more inclusive.
- Take this down to narrative. Case support for whole and each of the themes and business plans for each. Formal process.
- Three themes from other university in Australia - distinctiveness and desirability.
- Question posed on dollar figure and silent phase. Yes – Big, Bold and Ambitious; numbers will be put later for costs. Quite phase – we are there now.
- Duration is 5 – 7 years. Involving everyone works best.
- Any questions can be referred to L. Somers.

5. **Research Technology Survey (Ranil Sonnadara) – see attachment**

Research Technology IT Review. Survey sent to ADRs for input, and also sent to external reviewers for comment. Opportunity to make the survey be specific for some Faculties if the ADRs have specific questions or language. Will also be sent to RTC for broader input. Before sending out the survey, URC members to send any comments by end of week to RS. It's open for 2 weeks. Will be distributed through ADRs who will circulate and promote within their

Faculties. Will also be made available through the Daily News and VPR websites so that there is broad opportunity for input. This survey will help plan for next 3 - 5 years. Will be followed up with interviews with external reviewers. All ADRs will have an opportunity to speak with the external reviewers and will be asked to help identify other people and encourage them to participate.

6. Reports from the VPR Team

Kathy Charters

- Research Platforms (reporting for AVPR). OVPR providing support. A consultant (K. MacDonald) is working on what is a research platform, needs of core facilities right now, etc. Discussion now on how to support billing. Group of Core Facilities (CF) Managers meeting (CCEM staff) made presentation on a facility that could use improvements and used more widely. Directors of Administration to contact consultant. Consistent method of reporting. What needs assessment – led by the consultant.
- VPR, KC and AVPR have talked and are in agreement with the general idea. Will have a process for future funding for these core facilities. We can champion CFs, but not lead them.

Nick Markettos

- New FedDev Announcement – new funding on April 1. Few applications from Hamilton (Synapse; T. Shattuck involved). Any opportunities for spin offs. 1) Not for profit, 2) Business scale productivity (loans), 3) Community economic development (loans). Some companies have non Canadian funding and not aware of these opportunities. Hamilton is a priority for FedDev. Focus should be on a winning application.
- BEAM reporting due end of March
- Garage @ MIP – completed by end of March

7. Roundtable Discussion/Other Business

- Ontario Budget to be announced on April 11. Federal on March 18.
- NSERC Partnership Grants not formalized yet. Engage and CRD stay as they are.

Vivian Lewis

- Predatory Publishing – low quality publishers asking for publishing in their journals. Library receives questions about these. University Library and FHS Library talking about awareness campaign – created at University of Toronto. Key attributes to know what publication is legitimate or not. Library and VPR collaborating. D. Welch to volunteer to this, supporting early career researchers and university reputation.
- Elsevier – CA has been cut off from the Elsevier content. \$10M paid by McMaster for content in CA - wanted to lower their costs). CA has Open Access mandate. Mostly, it's graduate students asking. Our goal is to bring and increase awareness.

Ty Shattuck (MIP)

- Bring capital to MIP – negotiating contract with a Venture Fund.
- Launching speaking events, such as “Capital at the Park”; twofold: a) 1.5 hours intimate group dialogue (4 – 5:30 pm) and b) public session to follow (bigger forum); bringing a funder group.

Action: Look into the McMaster groups to determine who could be brought in. ADRs to make suggestions.

This is N. Markettos’ last URC meeting as he’s retiring.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:35 pm