

**University Research Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 19, 2018**  
**2:00 – 4:30 pm**  
**MUSC 318**

**In attendance:**

Karen Mossman (Chair), Jim Dunn, Peter Mascher, Nick Markettos, John Preston, Gianni Parise, Sean Corner, Vivian Lewis, Kathy Charters, Gay Yuyitung, Sherisse Webb, Tracy Arabski, Ty Shattuck, Lori Dillon, Danelle D'Alvise

**Regrets:** Jonathan Bramson, Ranil Sonnadara

Introductions made for Ty Shattuck, newly appointed CEO of the McMaster Innovation Park, and Michael Thompson, Acting Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies.

**1. Minutes of University Research Council Meeting of June 21, 2018**

Correction made in Section 6 and approved.

**2. Report by VP Research**

- CRCC feedback – consultation  
U15 feedback available if anyone requires it; Big Ideas
- NSERC Grants – collapsed into less; new formula  
Input sessions (one in Guelph); Attendees will include G. Yuyitung, Grace Kim, and any specific people suggested by the Associate Deans of Research. Please provide the names of interested parties to the VPR.
- Mapping sheet
- CFIA Talks – research on animals. VPRs from University of Toronto and McMaster University are working on U15-CFIA relationship and are making good headway. Talks initiated and connecting portals. Biosafety officer is helping with My CFIA. Webinars coming up on Zebrafish research.
- Discussion with Provost and University Advancement regarding Brighter World Research Initiative (BWRI) and using the Strategic Research Plan (SRP). The SRP has been released and is supported by the Provost, who has identified support for research platforms and core facilities as a priority. The SRP was presented at a University Advancement All Staff Meeting, where the VPR stated that the focus of our envelope is to provide service and support to our researchers. When University Advancement asked how they could help, the reply was money; referring to BWRI and raising funding for research. A URC Member asked if the BWRI document could be shared, and added to identify new researchers that are stars. The Provost, Mary Williams, Lorna Somers and Karen Mossman met in July 2018. University Advancement will explore all avenues to raise funds. A day workshop will be planned to discuss who and what. It was suggested that Faculties could help to identify up and coming

researchers; Advancement had been invited to Engineering's "Big Ideas" pitch to better understand value proposition cases; VPR to look into this.

- Dee Henne and VPR are looking at three companies to do marketing analysis for the Nuclear Reactor. RFP out in the summer of 2018. The VPR will also do an academic review of the MNR. No Scientific Director is in place. A URC member suggested that Peter Mascher be brought into these discussions. The academic review would include two to three external people, Bruce Gaulin and John Luxat. There was mention of an international push to establish small module reactors.
- Spring 2018: External review of BIMR has been completed and identified McMaster as a powerhouse in Materials Research. A series of Town Hall Meetings will be held, with the notice sent to Engineering and Science Faculty. A URC Member suggested that CANMET-MTL be linked as international. Platforms; Technologies – potential of steelmaking . AI is component.
- Annual Meeting with Mitacs was held in the summer. Mitacs does not spend enough at McMaster. Opportunities are shown on their website. A URC member mentioned that there are challenging funds to use. There has been miscommunication of where the money is going. It is only meant for full-time students and for the duration they are students. Helping with this is part of the role of MILO and they are available to help. It is open to all Faculties. Mitacs sessions will be held on September 28 and October 4. Mitacs now allows international companies. The challenge is how you get the students to spend time with international. Question posed whether this is open to not-for-profit companies; this is possible at times and Gay will follow up with Mitacs personnel for further discussion.

### **3. CFI Update (Karen Mossman, Acting VPR)**

- Update on Federal Budget 2018 and looking ahead to the fall
- Pan-Canadian consultation. Discussion paper to be published
- Three trends:
  - 1) Convergence (build core facilities infrastructure, share resources, maximization)
  - 2) International collaborations (trigency fund), such as CLSA
  - 3) Greater diversity of individuals with varied ages, backgrounds, ethnicities and genders.URC to review the document and provide feedback; also, to be discussed at the ADR Meeting.

### **\*Moved to Agenda Item #5 (Reports from the VPR Team)**

#### **5. Jim Dunn**

- Statement of Intent for ISED-SIF (sensors and AI) sent end of August. Possibly more opportunities next year
- Working on Research Centres and Institutes, as well as Core Facilities

## **Kathy Charters**

- Talked about BI Tool at last URC Meeting. Next step is to talk to IRA and now seeking discussion. Two different dashboards: one for Awards and another for Research Finance. Student awards not included. At Faculty Level – no drilldown - from Mosaic database. The funding is attributed to the lead PI. A URC member would prefer to see numbers in research area. Question posed as to how other collaborators are recognized, when the award is attributed to the PI. The answer is that database captures awardee detail as outlined in the research agreement which names the PI. Sherisse Webb recently attended a demonstration organized by the Library of the Dimensions database, which includes funded project data from over 300 global granting agencies. The data in Dimensions can be sorted and compared by funding agency, researcher, research area and/or institution. Vivian noted that it is part of the research information system that includes the Elements database. Question posed on the cost of Dimensions; unknown. Comment made that graph results are meaningless. What is meaningful is the research dollars per faculty member and compare with members at other institutions. Require more info. Data is asymmetric. The VPR will need to look into Dimensions module and demo. Vivian to check with Jay.

## **4. MacBuy Presentation (Dee Henne, Babu James, Terri Wetton)**

- Papers lost with previous process
- Bringing in the most commonly known vendors.
- Collaboratives with G6
- Q: the burden has fallen on departments to date, will it now fall on Financial Services?  
A: yes but also maybe some shared service hubs
- Q: Are there any special deals based on demand?  
Terri Wetton (Purchasing): Purchasing could go back and negotiate a deal (i.e., if one department orders say 12 pcs)
- Q: would a purchaser have to wait until the end of the month in order to get a better price?  
Answer captured by another URC Member: I didn't find the answer to be clear but it sounded like Purchasing may be giving a choice about whether there is an immediate need or whether they want to wait for a better price. It was mentioned that price isn't the major consideration for researchers; the priority is goods and services which will best further the research
- Q: the workload is in reconciling the P-card, how will this change?  
A: in this case Financial Services becomes the reconciler, the researcher just confirms receipt
- Q: Can you acquire services through MacBuy?  
A: Currently, shopping cart includes only products
- Roll out Date: April 2019

\* Gianni Parise left at 3:15 pm

\*\* James Gillett and Michael Thompson left at 3:25 pm

## 5. Continued on Reports from the VPR Team

### Gay Yuyitung

Innovation Showcase on November 7, 2018; nominations out for awards.

### Sherisse Webb

- The internal CFI Innovation Fund NOI Deadline was September 14, 2018; so far the total amount of CFI allocation being requested is \$46M; the amount requested from McMaster's CFI allocation is likely to change as some projects will also be requesting allocation from collaborating institutions.
- End of September 2018 – Faculties will advise ROADS which CFI IF projects will be allowed to proceed with an internal application.

### Lori Dillon

Research Infosource rankings will be out near the end of October 2018. In Total Research Income category, we are up to #7 from #8. Industry Partners funding is up; SSHRC funding is up; breakdown per funding area; will appear in CAUBO in later years.

### Nick Markettos

- BEAM opened; space used by companies such as NuGeneris and Fusion.
- Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (AMC) group meeting
- FedDev application approved for MIP Garage renovations

## 6. Faculty and URC Member Updates

### Vivian Lewis

Tri-council consultation on research data management policy; three primary areas:

1. Institutional data management strategies
2. Researcher data management plans
3. Data deposit

### Khaled Hassanein

Attended an interdisciplinary roundtable with Peter Mascher in Toronto (60 people).

Applications for \$20M will go into same. Peter Mascher added by definition fund (equity, diversity); mechanisms not known yet. When up and running, we should go for it. VPR suggests starting thinking about this and being strategic about the projects. KH: Need international collaborators

**Meeting Adjourned**