



**University Research Council  
Minutes  
January 13, 2016  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Mills Memorial Library, Room L304**

**Attendees:**

Allison Sekuler, Chair  
Naresh Agarwal  
Bonny Ibhawoh  
Vivian Lewis  
Nick Markettos  
Peter Mascher  
John Preston  
Pamela Swett  
Gianni Parise

Lori Dillon  
Kathy Charters  
Susan Munro  
Ranil Sonnadara  
Gay Yuyitung

**Invited to present**

Bob McNutt  
Byron Spencer

**Regrets**

Jonathan Bramson  
Steve Collins  
Tony Porter  
Greg Weiler

**AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes URC Meeting of September 15, 2015
2. Business Arising/Action Items

3. Research Data Centre – Byron Spencer/Bob McNutt
4. Strategic Research Plan – Allison Sekuler/Kathy Charters
5. Canada Excellence Research Chairs Competition – Kathy Charters
6. Research Funding Credit and Reporting – Kathy Charters
7. Meetings at Israeli Universities & Third Annual Israeli Tech Transfer Conference Update – Peter Mascher/Gay Yuyitung
8. Upcoming Premier’s Delegation to India – Peter Mascher
9. McMaster IT Review – Allison Sekuler (**see attached**)
10. Indigenous Research Institute Update – Allison Sekuler
11. Water Institute Update – Allison Sekuler
12. Publication Cost Fund – Vivian Lewis
13. Reports from the VPR Team (Nick Markettos, Kathy Charters, Gay Yuyitung, Susan Munro, Ranil Sonnadara, Lori Dillon)
14. Faculty Updates – Associate Deans, Research
15. Roundtable Discussion/Other Business

### **1. MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2015**

- Dr. Peter Mascher motioned to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting and Dr. Gianni Parise seconded. Motion carried.

### **2. BUSINESS ARISING/ ACTION ITEMS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 MEETING**

- NOTHING BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THIS MEETING

### **3) Research Data Centre (presentation by Byron Spencer & Bob McNutt attached)**

- Drs. Spencer and McNutt provided background on the Canadian Research Centre Data Network (CRDCN) and the Research Data Centre (RDC) at McMaster (history, network funding, budget)

- Noted that Dr. Martin Taylor has been appointed as the new executive director of the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN), beginning April 1, 2016
- Regarding income sources slide (Faculties): italics = hope to contribute; non-italics = existing contributions; looking at how the shortfall can be addressed moving forward
- Q & A from the URC:
  - Q : Can they charge user fees? A: occasional users have, other than tri-council funding; small numbers; there is a fee schedule for business/industry etc
  - Q: Can international users get access? A: those on research leave can charge, this happens on very few occasions; visiting scholars access the RDC but there is no charge
  - Q: what's the arrangement with other universities? A: all universities make up their own shortfall; most research intensive universities get their VPRs to cover
- Dr. Sekuler noted that there is no discretionary funding therefore it will be coming from Faculties; she asked what happens if one Faculty says they won't pay, therefore making it unfair for the other Faculties; at what point do you say your Faculty is cut off from using the services of the RDC?
- Dr. Ibhawoh used the example of the animal facility, saying that it is a similar situation; needs a broader discussion in view of the budget model; with new budget model nothing is in place;
- Dr. Preston said it needs the model to be fixed because everyone ends up doing "work arounds"
- Dr. Preston asked what the capacity was for new users and Dr. Spencer said that the larger facility will be in the Wilson Building; more physical space and work stations
- Drs. Spencer and McNutt noted that they have made grant requests and presented to Ontario ministries, undergoing a pilot project with Indigenous Affairs;
- Mr. Marketos asked if the province has been approached for funding; answered that might possible ask for funding for operating costs

#### **4) Strategic Research Plan**

- Kathy Charters noted that we are updating our SRP; there are new and resurgent programs
- We're doing strategic mapping and review; holding off until things are more clear
- Identifying priority areas is required by the CFI and CRC programs – should succeed on two levels if our SRP aligns with our grants etc
- From Dr. Sekuler: Haven't updated the model for the SRP since the 90s; need to be able to live with the investments we make

#### **5) Canada Research Chairs/Canada Excellence Research Chairs Competition**

- Kathy Charters sent around info re: CRCs – numbers, fit, or if they identify with identified groups ie women, visible minority, persons with a disability
- Noted that HR is doing an employment equity survey
- Need additional information re: strategies; she will be contacting the CRC program about best practices and will circulate that information to all Faculties
- Kathy noted that we are obligated to report, that the numbers are a target, not a requirement
- Dr. Parise asked how they determine these targets? Kathy answered that our percentage of grants is reflected in the number of CRCs allocated; there is a methodology for women; not tri-agencies combined; Dr. Parise noted that we don't identify with other grants

- Dr. Ibhawoh noted this is true of any self identification process
- Dr. Sekuler said that on the Indigenous front, Humanities was hoping to bring someone in; hiring freeze with the budget model, having conversations with the Provost and President: if it's a University priority then we should be bringing new people in; she also said that we are still struggling with meeting targets in 2016 – it's disappointing
- Kathy Charters – with regards to the CRCs, comments from reviewers are useful and with our last round, there were all positive comments
- CERCs: two competitions, possible that another call will come out this month (January)
- Program provides a \$10M award; seeking high level candidates with a team
- One chair in business innovation; deadline phase 1 is late 2016
- End of March for the CFI competition
- CFREF has to be submitted by the end of July
- Lose momentum over the summer therefore need to get going now because the applications are time consuming, collecting data etc
- When the call comes we'll know the details; discussions with the new government; URC can share further thoughts with Kathy
- CFREF: plan out where we're going; next call comes in 2021-22
- 2018 Phase 2 – need to think about long term plans; successful CFREFs have had CERC-led projects, need to look at this
- [General discussion around CERCs, the need to make the case internally that CERCs aren't just about the funding, but also that the CERCs make a departmental footprint; budget model should not drive research priorities; possibility that priorities change over the next five years; data suggests that the linkages between CERCs and CFREF is a factor – do we want to build CFREF around CERCs?]

## **6) Research Funding Credit and Reporting – Kathy Charters**

- Looking at research reporting on database at ROADS; designed with PI; with Mosaic and the budget model, need to think about a way to do it differently
- Through Mosaic assign credit with interdisciplinary research – goes to lead PI, more accurately reflects where activity happening
- Kathy will bring examples to the next URC to see if it's helpful

## **7) Meetings with Israeli Universities & Third Annual Israeli Tech Transfer Conference Update Peter Mascher & Gay Yuyitung**

- Israel Embassy invited universities to visit their tech transfer offices; Israel is very successful with entrepreneurship and tech transfer – risk averse
- 40% of their GDP goes to R&D – 40% from multinationals
- It's a country of 8M people – they met with the office of the chief of the chief scientist; Israel first – before the US/UK/Japan; 2012-13 = \$481M in royalties

- They have a chief scientist at each and every ministry; deeply ingrained to turn research results into revenue
- MIP would lend itself to creating a Canadian presence for start-up companies, especially with the cheaper Canadian dollar
- Dr. Mascher noted that they love Canada in Israel, it's not a hard sell; potential with people visiting here
- Generally speaking, issues of ownership pre-defined;
- Dr. Sekuler noted that it's important to look at the research clusters that align with what Israel is doing
- Dr. Mascher is going back for a nano conference; meeting on neurosciences and neurotechnology

### **8) Upcoming Premier's Delegation to India – Peter Mascher**

- Going at the end of January with the Premier; originally just business; COU invited to go; still business but Allison Barr leading the university delegation
- They will visit four of the major centres; from Mac's perspective, spend time with the business delegates; from the academic perspective, connect with the IITs and pan-IIT organizations

### **9) McMaster IT Review**

- Review by the Provost and VP administration
- Kathy Denny coming to the next ADR meeting, possibly the next URC

### **10) Indigenous Research Institute Update – Allison Sekuler**

- Draft proposal for the Institute
- Next stage is to the Indigenous Education Council; need future discussion; there is support from the President; it's the topic at the next Ottawa day the beginning of February

### **11) Water Institute Update – Allison Sekuler**

- Dustin Garrick on paternity leave; do we want to have a Water Institute? This came up with the CFREF from Saskatchewan; too many fragmented groups – need to cluster

### **12) Publication Cost Fund – Vivian Lewis**

- Issue is that journals (STEM) change fees; author publication charges
- Several universities, range from large to small funding; we're behind the curve; Ottawa and UofT closing their author funds
- Budget is not meeting the demand
- Asked about the ballpark total of fees, Vivian said that they don't have that number, but it can be \$1500-\$3500 per article; one-half of Open Access articles have a fee
- Important area to investigate; universities closing the author fund

- \$10M per year @ Mac for author fees; 40-6-% paid by their grants or home department
- Now a \$700K shortfall in acquisitions based on USD\$

### **13) Reports from VPR Team**

- **Bonny Ibhawoh** spoke about the Interdisciplinary Fund – 37 applications, giving out 5 awards
- Prizes and Awards: trying to create a database; highlight those who've won a major awards
- Trying to be more pro-active with nominations ie to the Royal Society – tap those faculty members with a FRSC to provide some support and help with the nomination process
- Dr. Sekuler noted that for nominations to work the application has to be done more than a week before – can't be last minute and be good
- Dr. Preston noted that clerical support is needed; we do have someone hired as a temporary position
- **Nick Markettos** said that the MIP review recorded a deficit of \$300K; VP Admin said it was a good idea to review; strategic plans will deal with the financials and governance
- 1) continue with space support; 2) VPR becomes the chair of the Board of Directors; 3) Zach Douglas will present to the URC; 4) Financials – revenues from space
- Gay Yuyitung presented to the MIP Committee; MILO seen as something more to the committee than just contracts
- BEAM – received funding; contribution agreement has very detailed expectations, arrangement between MIP and the University about what is paid by whom
- Agreement between Faculties and MIP does not change
- If VP Admin wants to change the rate that has to be discussed with the Faculties
- Parking will be integrated

### **Gay Yuyitung**

- OCE changing the overhead rate from 30% to 20%
- Funding reduced for the Forge

### **Susan Munro**

- Enhancements to research project statements; push vs pull
- Hired Deloitte to help solve some of the issues (ie needed the ability to do queries – not reporting correctly)
- Good news is that was addressed and PIs can now run queries as well as Faculty; it's taken about a year to fix Mosaic issues