

University Research Council Minutes
Monday, March 6, 2017
2:00 – 4:30 pm
Mills Library, 3rd Floor, Room L304

In attendance:

Rob Baker, Peter Mascher, Naresh Agarwal, , John Preston, Gillian Goward, Doug Welch, Vivian Lewis, Zach Douglas, Nick Marketos, Ranil Sonnadara, Gay Yuyitung, Greg Weiler, Lori Dillon, Danelle D'Alvise

Regrets: Stephen Collins, Bonny Ibhawoh, Tony Porter, Kathy Charters, Susan Munro, Jonathan Bramson

1. **Minutes of University Research Council Meeting** of December 8, 2016. Correct spelling of Dr. John Preston's last name and the title of the "Diversity Officer" to "Vice-Provost, Equity and Inclusion". Minutes approved.

2. **Report by VP Research**

- Rob Baker advised that he presented a report at the recent Board of Governors meeting, which included:
 - VP Research responsibilities/commitments
 - Results of the Customer Research index (CRi) Survey regarding Research at McMaster and how to improve
 - Work with Advancement
 - Support large Research Grant applications
 - Commercialization
 - Strategic Research Plan
- Three searches currently taking place for the Directors of MIRI, MacDATA Institute and MITL. Search for the AVP Research to come later
- Advancement Manufacturing Consortium (AMC) – government to send us questions to fill out
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute – province wide – base is University of Toronto – Head Contact: Geoff Hinton, who will also be the Scientific Director
McMaster Contact: Sue Becker
- Canadian Neutron Initiative (CNI) – started in Saskatoon 6 months ago, as Chalk River will be shutting down in 18 months. The CNI group is associated with the Canadian Light Source (CLS). Neutrons are used in the US and Europe. McMaster's VP Research was contacted in October 2016 to get McMaster involved. The McMaster Nuclear Reactor already produces

- neutrons. Chris Heysel and Bruce Gaulin are involved. We have already been doing the work mandated by CNI.
- Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) – Rob Baker is a member of the SMA Working Group. Back to BIU funding. Roll up Graduate numbers to Undergraduate. Cap on Undergraduate. Separate envelope from enrolment. Some funding will go to research, courses, etc. Doug Welch mentioned that there was suggestion that there might be growth in the Graduate numbers.
- Federal Budget Release in two weeks – the Naylor Review on Fundamental Science has not been released yet, but probably after the budget. After the report is released, it will be at least one more year for consultations.

3. Report by Peter Mascher AVP re Hong Kong and Shanghai

- The purpose of the trip to Hong Kong and Shanghai was for the Office of International Affairs to engage more with Alumni affairs.
- Updated Alumni on McMaster initiatives; Consulate General was involved; this approach is good to use in future connecting with peer institutions.
- Universities visited: University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and City University of Hong Kong
 - During visits, there was discussion on research interests and students. Undergraduate students not of interest to them. Strong efforts in Humanities and Social Sciences. “Belt and Road” initiative: many countries involved.
- Shanghai Trip – two universities involved with above topics. Met with representatives from Shanghai International Studies University. They were interested in the Institute on Globalization & the Human Condition, Political Science, English and Cultural Studies and our Aging initiative. –
- Met with representatives of Fudan University, School of Medical Education. They are interested in new methodologies and our problem-based methods. They will send doctors (10 – 12) to our School of Medicine to take courses in the summer. eHealth is also of interest to them. We’re putting together a training package on security and management aspect of hospitals. Also interested in adding engineering and in particular, our combined programs (i.e., Engineering and Management, Engineering & Society); opportunities there. Peter Mascher will follow up and contact the Associate Deans of Research
- Vivian Lewis advised that she participated in a similar event in Hong Kong.
- Peter Mascher is possibly considering our researchers attending these events. Theme event, i.e., Aging. Alumni would like to hear from our stars.
- Rob Baker asked Peter Mascher to coordinate with Advancement.

4. MOSAIC Security (doc)

- When Mosaic was established, researchers couldn't access others' information. The question is if we can remove them. The Committee met with MUFA. Rob is concerned. Issue exists in Post Award Section.
- Doug Welch suggested customization and periodic audits
- Greg Weiler expressed Dr. Stephen Collins' concerns about this
- John Preston noted that it was patches of the system, not the software
- Ranil Sonnadara added that there's hardware limitation and asked what the cost to fix would be; as well as whether it would be faster, if we removed the security.
- Rob Baker noted that periodic checks would be completed and report would be sent to the VP Research and Provost. Require policy in place.
- Vivian Lewis asked what other universities did in this situation
- Greg Weiler suggested checking with universities that already use PeopleSoft
- Nick Marketos added to keep in mind the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy policy
- Greg asked if there are any tricouncil requirements
- John Preston suggested that this be directed to Senate
- **Rob Baker asked Ranil to speak to the IT Committee about security**

5. Research Survey Results (doc)

- Customer Research index (CRi) survey results to be kept confidential
- Concerned about questions
- Input on survey – already heard by Rob Baker
- Things important vs. satisfaction; strong rationale that we need changes
- Through SMA, differentiation envelope to put funds into research intensity
- Doug Welch – Grants numbers going down
- Message is that we need to improve, or we will deal with retention issues. SRP will be important.

6. CIFAR Global Scholar Program announcement (doc)

- CIFAR Azrielli Global Scholars Program provides \$100K direct research support
- Encourage Associate Deans of Research to identify new stellar individuals
- Danelle D'Alvise will help with nominations

7. Strategic Research Plan

- In talks with the Provost Council and PVP
- Rob Baker gave overview at Board of Governors meeting last week
- Representatives on SRP Committee provided by Deans.
- Require broad views
- Draft by Spring – June
- Bring back to URC for feedback (postponed) – then to public for input and back
- Board of Governors interested to get the draft before public input

- Structure:
 - Types of research we do
 - Broad overlapping things/areas
 - What we do good
 - Next five years – interested in specific areas (strong already and continue to develop)
 - Focus: Two CERC Applications in now - \$10M each – identify key areas
- Strategy:
 - Involved with Advancement – internal document
 - Main document – for external organizations, philanthropists, industry
- Research Institutes Review required every five years
- Meet with SRP Committee first; put priority on couple of areas (Aging - a serious component)
- CERC Results by May 17

8. Reports from the VPR Team (Nick Markettos, Gay Yuyitung, Ranil Sonnadara, Lori Dillon)

- Gay Yuyitung:
 - April – NSERC Strategic competition; which applications are going ahead
 - Rob Baker noted that Nuclear will be beefed up;
 - Water – Jarislowsky Gift
 - Gay shared that MILO is working with ROADS on a workshop (research partnering)
- Ranil Sonnadara:
 - Partnered with IBM – Announcement took place – online academic program
 - Funding PDF – SOSCIP – will fund 18
 - CANARIE Call for Cybersecurity; monitoring on digital infrastructure; will circulate to the ADRs
 - CFI Cyberinfrastructure Call yesterday
 - Microsoft demos here in April for faculty and staff

- Lori Dillon:
 - OCE Discovery in May - working with City of Hamilton, MIP, iF, Mohawk College and MILO. Group meeting coming up involving researchers. Private industry event took place at last year's OCE Discovery.
- Danelle D'Alvise:
 - College of New Scholars – 7 in total
 - Killam Workshops – March 29 on campus
- Nick Markettos left early for another commitment – no update

9. Faculty Updates – Associate Deans, Research

- Doug Welch:
 - International graduate numbers are up (especially from Turkey)
 - US applications are up too

10. Roundtable Discussion/Other Business

- Zach Douglas advised that BEAM construction is progressing. Completion by mid-December 2017 or January 2018. Meeting FedDev guidelines.
- Interest by private sector in 70K square feet at the MIP warehouse
- Rob Baker in talks with Gay Yuyitung about commercialization opportunities
- Two CECRs went forward for renewal

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.