

University Research Council Minutes
Tuesday, December 5, 2017
2:00 – 4:30 pm
JHE A114

In attendance:

Rob Baker, Karen Mossman, Nick Markettos, Khaled Hassanein, John Preston, Vivian Lewis, Sean Corner, James Gillett, Kathy Charters, Gay Yuyitung, Greg Weiler, Ranil Sonnadara, Lori Dillon, Danelle D'Alvise, Popi Bistas (Minutes)

Regrets: Peter Mascher, Jonathan Bramson, Doug Welch, Zach Douglas

1. **Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017**

- Presentation/Highlights by Maggie Pooran, Director, Employee/Labour Relations, Human Resources and Andrianna Kabitsis, Employee/Labour Relations Advisor, Human Resources.
- Changes took effect last week; other changes into effect during 2018-2019
- Changes in Equal Pay for Equal Work based on employment status, effective April 1, 2018. Question posed if there was consultation with researchers; HR will look into it; changes to be included in the budget. Reach out to researchers and department administrators for communications. Wage limit on Research Assistants to be within UNIFOR range. Rate for Post Doctoral Fellows can vary per individual; range existing for them too. Other factors such as skill and experience can determine pay range.
- New Rules for Overtime: applies to employees who hold more than 1 position with the university; employee to be paid at the rate for the position they are working during the overtime period
- New Child Death Leave & Extend Child Disappearance Leave; Domestic and Sexual Violence Leave
- Enhancements to Personal Emergency Leave, Family Medical Leave, and Pregnancy and Parental Leave
- Government has added more compliance officers
- VP Research Office to work with HR regarding the researchers and understanding

2. **Minutes of University Research Council Meeting of September 14, 2017**

Add Kathy Charters as attended. Minutes approved.

3. **Report by VP Research**

- Travelled to Ottawa in November and had various meetings with CFIA, Ministry of Finance, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, Natural Resources Canada, Chief Innovation Officer, and Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada. Focused on Nuclear items and microbial resistance; discussion on fundamental science review and Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster.
- National Research Universal (NRU) reactor at Chalk River Laboratories will be closing soon; notes from the VPR meeting with NRCan in Ottawa to be summarized by Alex Lawson and Beth Palmer; 95% of talks was on research and funding.
- Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster application submitted; results to be available in January 2018; \$800 Million. We lead along with Universities of Waterloo and Toronto; some impact from Western University and ArcelorMittal Dofasco.

4. **Strategic Research Plan (SRP)**

- Committee met and drafted a report. The report was presented to the Provost Council, and twice at PVP for brief discussion. Wish to make public. Next step is to put up on the web soon. Asked the Deans how to reach to their faculties. Report planning to be available online by December 11 and then meet with Deans and their faculties. Steps to follow include sending the SRP to University Planning Committee in February 2018 and to Senate in March 2018. The Canada Research Chair Secretariat will look at this document and will need a summary (5 pages).
- Handouts given on draft sections for Indigenous Research and Sustainable Communities
- B-Stem is more interdisciplinary
- Need clarification on “The Built Society” and input from the University Research Council
- SRP document in line with the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA)
- Any comments from URC can be sent to Rob Baker or Lori Dillon
- Comment made that SRP is missing the URC role in research government at the university
- Open sharing of SRP improvement plans
- Document does not indicate how it will be updated; to be discussed with governance
- No strengths noted in Section 3; comment followed that we have strengths but have areas that we can focus and get stronger
- No Town Hall meeting; only web viewing and comment submission

5. **Soup and Scholars (Karen Mossman)**

- Juliet Daniel, Lori Dillon and Allison Sekuler worked on this initiative before. It involves discussion with multiple people (students/faculty). To be revived. Give the community of who’s working in research areas. Request for Associate Deans of Research to suggest a representative to sit on a steering committee; broad themes, capturing specific individuals; require someone with good understanding on research; aimed to raise research profile.

6. **Research Finance Review (Kathy Charters)**

- Research Finance Review took place last year. Dee Henne, Debbie Martin and Kathy Charters have been meeting.
- Two focus groups (meeting separately):
 1. Researchers from each faculty
 2. Administrators from each faculty

First meeting with researchers took place in November; focused on travel and expenses. Question posed if there are any areas to focus and change. Input received from meeting was on how to communicate better with different users. Meetings planned from January to June 2018.

- TriCouncil is making changes in the Spring; principle-based approach as opposed to monitoring visits in the past. Kathy Charters was in an Ottawa meeting last Monday, where it appeared that government plans to simplify things for researchers.
- Defining the appetite at McMaster – discussion on that. Some things work for some institutions and some are not. Doing consulting and then discuss with the Provost and the VPR. Follow policy; different activities done everywhere at McMaster.
- Working on research project statements
- Comment by URC member made that existing issues with hospitals require synchronization

7. **Faculty Updates (Associate Deans, Research)**

- **John Preston (Engineering)**
 - Artificial Intelligence Workshop at MIP was successful; 6 start-up companies in contact with IBM and Intel – possibility of starting a graduate course
- **Khaled Hassanein (Business)**
 - Innovation and the Future of Canada Summit (November 16); BStem
 - RJC Event – Digitization Centre with Humanities and Social Sciences; aging and using neuroscience; toured McMaster Digital Transformation Research Centre (MDTRC); public talks followed.
 - Discussions took place with VPR at St. Joseph's Health Care, re: research with MDTRC; excited to use facility; apply Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health care; will approach FHS and other Faculties to form a small group.
- **Sean Corner (Humanities)**
 - Humanities Research Bulletin available – please view

8. **Reports from the VPR Team (Karen Mossman, Kathy Charters, Nick Markettos, Gay Yuyitung, Ranil Sonnadara, Lori Dillon, Danelle D'Alvise)**
- **Nick Markettos**
 - BEAM Official Opening – March 7, 2018. Visits by Federal and Provincial Government in January and February 2018.
 - Echo Car Competition – US Federal Rep very supportive. Promote within Federal and Provincial Governments.
 - MITL
 - CPDC – received venture financing and setting up space at the MIP Warehouse. CECR approved for the third time.
 - Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster
Provincial Manufacturing portion (Advanced Manufacturing Consortium/AMC); \$5M from the university

 - **Danelle D'Alvise (Prizes and Awards)**
 - McMaster University was the last of the U15 to assign a Prizes and Awards representative
 - VPR and AVPR to prepare a one-pager on the role
 - Create Ad Hoc Committee for internal competition; Associate Deans of Research to suggest representatives
 - Need repository – Danelle will contact the ADRs
 - VPR mentioned that we require institutional support for Royal Society of Canada

 - **Ranil Sonnadara**
 - Signed contract with QReserve; database with comprehensive data
 - Database with MREB
 - Contact Faculties so RHPCS can assist

 - **Vivian Lewis**
 - McMaster Experts launched; good feedback; receiving queries to get into the data. VPR thanked Ranil and Vivian for their work on this project.

9. **Roundtable Discussion/Other Business**

A URC member asked as to how we can get researchers to sit on review panels and what the incentive is. Another URC member suggested an annual record of activity outline; put supplementary questions to faculty; have they served on these panels; good to know who sat on these panels and who was asked. Another URC member mentioned that NSERC sends a letter to the Dean as to who served on their committees.

Kathy Charters added that the CRC Action Plan will be sent to PVP on Tuesday; and posted. For numbers, we exceeded targets in each category.

VPR asked URC members to take a Research Infosource Rankings pamphlet.

Greg Weiler will be retiring in January 2018. All URC members thanked and congratulated him.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:18 pm