



**University Research Council
Minutes
June 2nd, 2014
2:30 – 4:30 pm
Mills Library L304**

Attendees:

Mo Elbestawi, Chair
Nick Markettos
Gay Yuyitung
Gianni Parise

Tony Porter
Stephen Collins
Greg Weiler
Vivian Lewis

Barb McKenna
Bonny Ibhawoh
Naresh Agarwal
Kathy Charters

Regrets:

Peter Mascher
Fiona McNeill

AGENDA

1. Minutes of University Research Council Meeting of March 3, 2014
2. Business Arising/Action Items
3. VPR&IA Briefing:
 - Fraunhofer Project Center at MIP
 - McMaster Institute of GeroScience at MIP
 - Big Data Initiative
 - Neuro Tech Initiative
4. Biosafety Committee (Jennifer Robertson)
5. Funding of the Research Data Centre at McMaster (Bob McNutt/Byron Spencer)
(material provided)
6. Report from the TC3 + Public Consultation on Big Data Workshop, and
Library Update on Research Data Management Initiatives (Vivian Lewis/Jason Brodeur)
(material provided)
7. Selection of a University Research Council Representative on the Newly Established
International Strategy Advisory Group (ISAG)

8. CFI (Kathy Charters)
 - John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF)
 - Operation and Maintenance of CFI-Funded Equipment
 - Innovation Fund

9. Other Business

MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 3RD, 2014

- Dr. Stephen Collins motioned to accept the minutes of the March 3rd, 2014 meeting and Dr. Naresh Agarwal seconded. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING/ACTION ITEMS FROM MARCH 3RD MEETING

- Dr. Mascher and Dr. Parise to discuss the presentation proposal made by Dr. Ortega with their Faculty Deans and confirm the decision to Dr. Collins; Dr. Collins will revisit the CFI conditions to ensure the proposed upgrade is eligible for funding under the LOF.
 - UPDATE - It was determined that this was not eligible for an LOF.

VPR&IA BRIEFING

FRAUNHOFER PROJECT CENTRE AT MIP

- The partnership between the Faculties of Health Sciences, Science, Engineering and the Fraunhofer Institute to establish the McMaster-Fraunhofer Project Centre for Biomedical Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (BEAM) is moving forward. Dr. Jonathan Bramson and Dr. John Brennan are the Scientific Directors of BEAM and it will be located at the Innovation Park on the south side of the MARC building at 183 Longwood Road South. To date, the university has successfully secured \$4M from the Province and \$4M from the City of Hamilton and additional matching funds are being sought from FedDev to contribute to the retrofits required for the space.

INTERDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTES

The VPR&IA is sponsoring the creation of three new interdisciplinary institutes and the intention is that these will be operational in the fall of 2014.

- 1) McMaster Institute of GeroScience at MIP
 - The establishment of the McMaster Institute of GeroScience (MIGS) Institute, led by Dr. Parminder Raina, has been approved by the University Planning Committee and Senate. This is an interdisciplinary initiative that includes all six faculties and will study aging as a dynamic process and the interplay of the determinants on health during the aging process. The Institute will have nominal space at the Innovation Park.
- 2) Big Data Initiative
 - Dr. Abigail Payne, the Chair of the Big Data Committee at McMaster, has submitted the final proposal for the creation of the McMaster Big Data Institute to the VPR&IA. The proposal puts forward the recommendations of the interdisciplinary committee and

will go before the University Planning Committee and the Senate in the fall. Opportunities for funding and leveraging for the initiative will be explored.

3) Neuro Tech Initiative

- Dr. Patrick Bennett, the Chair of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, is leading the Neuro Tech initiative which involves researchers from the faculties of Science, Engineering, Humanities, and Health Sciences. The proposal for the initiative, which is related to a CFI-JELF application, is expected during the summer.

BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (PRESENTATION BY JENNIFER ROBERTSON)

- In 2013 the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) merged their Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines into the new Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines. The Human Pathogens and Toxins Act and additional legislation covering all human, terrestrial animal, aquatic, plant pathogens have also changed and this impacts the terms of the license that McMaster is covered under.
- The Presidential Biosafety Advisory Committee (PBAC) has posted the revised terms of reference on their website and is communicating these to the research community.
- These changes have brought about new expectations on the Associate Deans of Research who are now asked to select candidates for PBAC membership from their faculty and communicate with the other Associate Deans of Research to ensure that the membership is a balanced representation of the research community.
- Jennifer Robertson will be communicating the current membership lists and needs to the Associate Deans of Research.

FUNDING OF THE RESEARCH DATA CENTRE AT MCMASTER (BOB MCNUTT/BYRON SPENCER)

- The Research Data Centre (RDC) at McMaster is part of the Canadian Research Data Centre Network and is one of the busiest Centres in the Canada. Dr. Byron Spencer is Academic Director for the RDC at McMaster and Dr. Bob McNutt is the Executive Director of National Network.
- Funding for the Network and the RDC from CIHR/SSHRC ends June 30, 2015 and there is a one-year extension under discussion. To date, the university has not had to provide substantial support as the RDC has been successful in securing various grants to support its activities. However, the RDC is projecting funding shortfalls in the coming year.
- The RDC does not levy charges for academic use and adding any fees for academic users which might help to fund the RDC is not possible as this would negate the success of any grant applications.
- The RDC is requesting that the faculties that access the RDC consult internally and let the Centre know if their faculty is willing to contribute funding in proportion to usage to assist in covering projected shortfalls. The VPRIA is supportive of the RDC and is open to exploring whether CFI funds under the VPRIA can be used for this purpose which may minimize the request from the faculties.
- Dr. Spencer will provide updated percentages of usage by faculty to the Associate Deans of Research to inform these internal discussions.

REPORT FROM THE TRI-COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON BIG DATA WORKSHOP, AND LIBRARY UPDATE ON RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES (VIVIAN LEWIS/JASON BRODEUR)

- Over the next few months the Tri-Council Agencies will be moving forward and taking the next steps regarding their Big Data plan. The plan has three components:
 1. Establish a culture of stewardship
 2. Coordinate stakeholder engagement
 3. Develop capacity
- A number of concerns were raised during the Big Data Workshop regarding how to determine what data should be retained, how data is protected and confidentiality is maintained over the long term, and how the Tri-Council will ensure compliance. A clear focus on research data management as a prerequisite for big data emerged from the workshop. Dr. Elbestawi recommended that Vivian Lewis coordinate with Dr. Payne as their efforts on Big Data are complementary.
- McMaster is looking for low cost solutions for research data management that will provide the appropriate tools to McMaster researchers to ensure an efficient and sustainable means for implementing best practices.
- Mandates from funding agencies are requiring researchers to publicly deposit their research data; however, in the majority of cases, this is not effectively managed and data is being lost. The impact of this is that when individuals involved in a research project leave the university, the remaining members of the research team are unable to replicate the research and results.
- The Institutional Repository is not robust enough to support data deposits and faculty members need to be aware of existing means to enable the preservation data (such as Dataverse). Associate Deans can increase awareness by sharing this information within their faculties and informing faculty members that resources exist.
- Associate Deans of Research are asked to identify candidates within their faculties to discuss Big Data and research data management practices with Jason Brodeur and Vivian Lewis and to contact Vivian.

SELECTION OF A UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY ADVISORY GROUP (ISAG)

- ISAG is the advisory group that informs the President about internationalization; members include the Associate Vice-President, International Affairs; the Dean of Students; the Dean of Graduate Studies; as well as faculty representatives. ISAG has requested a representative from the University Research Council join the group. Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh has volunteered to be this representative.

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION BRIEFING (KATHY CHARTERS)

John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF)

- A number of institutions are not drawing down the funds quickly enough and CFI is now requiring institutions to provide a plan of action for drawing down these funds before CFI will provide institutions with their allocation figure.

- McMaster's identified need exceeds the amount that the university would normally be given; CFI has stated that it will provide an initial amount and will reassess McMaster's allocation following next June's board meeting.
- Not all applications planned between now and the June 2015 competition can be afforded through the current allocation. It is recommended that Faculties review their commitments and upcoming plans and submit priority applications in the October 2014 and February 2015 competitions. Although there is every reason to think that additional allocation from CFI will be forthcoming, it is recommended that any new commitments include the qualification that the commitment is subject to available allocation from CFI. Faculties are asked to work closely with Van Nhan, Assistant Director Administration and Support, on plans for upcoming applications and commitments. Kathy Charters will send the updated information to the Associate Deans of Research.

Operation and Maintenance of CFI-Funded Equipment

- CFI requires a plan for ensuring that CFI funded equipment will be maintained and this discussion will be raised in future University Research Council Meetings.

CFI Innovation Fund

- Deadlines for the 2015 competitions are approaching and sufficient drafts from many faculty members have not yet been received; the Associate Deans of Research are encouraged to urge researchers to submit drafts to ROADS.
- Due to the number of late draft submissions ROADS would like to discuss a possible change in process for large competitions; Kathy Charters will make suggestions to the Council at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Welcome Dr. Gay Yuyitung to the Council; she is the Acting Executive Director of the McMaster Industry Liaison Office.
- The Council determined that the length of the Council meetings should be extended to three hours and that the Council should be a forward thinking committee with a primary focus on areas of strategic importance. A secondary function of the Council is to disseminate information amongst Council members. Accordingly, it was agreed to extend the length of each meeting to three hours.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Associate Deans of Research are to discuss the request from the RDC with their Deans and let Dr. Spencer know the outcome.
2. Associate Deans of Research are asked to identify candidates to discuss Big Data and research data management practices with Jason Brodeur and Vivian Lewis and to contact Vivian.

3. Associate Deans of Research are to select candidates for PBAC membership and communicate with Jennifer Robertson.