



**University Research Council
Minutes
September 15, 2015
2:30- 4:30 pm
MUSC 220**

Attendees:

Allison Sekuler, Chair	Peter Mascher
Bonny Ibhawoh	Naresh Agarwal
Tony Porter	Barb McKenna
John Preston	Kathy Charters
Pamela Swett	Nick Markettos
Gianni Parise	Greg Weiler
	Gay Yuyitung

Regrets:

Steve Collins
Jonathan Bramson
Vivian Lewis

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes URC Meeting of March 5, 2015.
2. Business Arising/Action Items
3. Strategic Research Plan (Allison Sekuler)
4. Indigenous Research – Allison Sekuler
5. Prizes and Awards – Allison Sekuler

6. Report from the VPR Team – (Nick Markettos, Kathy Charters, Gay Yuyitung, Barb McKenna)
7. Planning for the Upcoming CFI Innovation Fund Competition – Kathy Charters
8. Faculty Updates – Associate Deans, Research
9. Roundtable Discussion/Other Business

1. MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2015

- Dr. Peter Mascher motioned to accept the minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting and Dr. John Preston seconded. Motion carried.

2. BUSINESS ARISING/ ACTION ITEMS FROM THE MARCH 5, 2015 MEETING

- NOTHING BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THIS MEETING

3) Strategic Research Plan (SRP)

- Dr. Sekuler noted that the SRP was developed a number of years ago – the purpose was to provide an overarching view of where we're going
- can submit to a max of one per year; usually tweaked in minor ways
- the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) is also useful to update especially the Strengths & Emerging Opportunities section (our SMA can be found online at: <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/pepg/publications/vision/universities.html>)
- Keywords are important, as well as ensuring that everyone is represented in the document
- Kathy Charters has done a draft of the SRP; Dr. Sekuler will tweak this somewhat then it will be circulated with the group; Kathy noted that the SRP is used with the CFI/ORF and other institutional funding opportunities

4) Indigenous Research

- Dr. Sekuler said that McMaster is at a convergence point with Indigenous research and knowledge
- Pilot program with summer residence program (Indigenous Undergraduate Summer Research Scholars program)

- Also implementing a module with mygradskills.ca; in discussion with Council to provide an Indigenous research framework; working towards an institute for Indigenous research and knowledge at McMaster
- Dr. Sekuler asked for the URC to help with their own areas
- Mr. Weiler asked about the relationship with the Chiefs of the local Indigenous communities
- Dr. Sekuler said that she has met with the Clan Mother and connected with Six Nations (Roberta Jamieson from Six Nations Polytechnic) –while we have connections, they need to be stronger
- Mr. Weiler noted there are issues with the Research Ethics Board with consultations
- Dr. Sekuler said that we need to get a better sense of the Research Ethics Board/Community Ethics Board – issues with being perceived as paternalistic and cumbersome. We need to think about the preference and needs of Indigenous People: “nothing about us without us”
- Dr. Sekuler referred to the Indigenous Education Council re: research framework and talked about the Mac-Laurier-Brock roundtable that was held in the summer for SSHRC/CAGS
- On the research framework point, Dr. Preston said that Engineering has a connection with Hatch: Indigenous engineers; firm with ties to reserves; Engineering has run a number of years camps with elementary kids; pipeline disappears at high school level; should think about reconstructing that pipeline with alumni – move forward with scholarships with Indigenous students
- Need to have resources in place – academically and culturally it’s a multi-year process
- Dr. Sekuler said she wants to see progress before the end of December
- Dr. Preston noted that it’s a challenge to integrate the Research Ethics Board and the Indigenous Research Board – but it was noted that some agreements are in place

5) Prizes and Awards

- President Deane asked Dr. Sekuler to firm up a strategy for prizes and awards
- Range of departments and Faculties who are good at it; need a common framework
- Need to build a portfolio for individuals – if they can win one award they can win another; need a point person in each department or cluster of departments to disseminate information about prizes and awards
- Dr. Parise said that they are working on a document in Science and compiling a list for standing committees
- Dr. Preston said they have 2 committees: for junior and senior level profs; looking more at international awards to help get people’s names out (Max Wong leading the committee on Sr. Awards)
- Committee for Royal Society of Canada should have a chair with FRSC

- Need staff members with institutional knowledge to organize committees and invest in them to do the writing; often it is the junior faculty members who write the nomination, but the nominator has to be a Fellow
- Dr. Porter proposed that Chairs in each department are the most appropriate for prizes and awards committees because they're following the careers of those in their department
- Dr. Ibhawoh said that a staff person should be the point person – there has to be administrative support which could be provided, for example, through the Research Support Facilitators in the Faculties
- Barb McKenna said that Awards walls – like the one in FHS – work well

6) Reports from the VPR Team

Nick Markettos

- Fraunhofer-BEAM facility will be located at MIP
- The application to Fed Dev stalled with election
- City and province have provided funding – Fed Dev application is for \$12M
- CECR submitted by Professors Xu/Fang/Selvaganapathy – WATERMART
- Advanced Manufacturing Hub proposal (Mo Elbestawi with Siemens & CME); Prime Minister said if elected his government will support the proposal
- McMaster Institute for Transportation Logistics (MITL) received an Automotive Partnership Council award of \$1.8M; call from the MRI to do a study on issue with transportation and innovation: Pavlos Kanaroglou's application accepted
- Undertaking a joint review of the McMaster Innovation Park/McMaster, looking at what's been done up to now, expectations, changes, relevant governance structure
- Burlington Economic Development Corporation – keen to expand their relationship with McMaster; Patrick Deane has met with Mayor Goldring to increase presence

Kathy Charters

- Advisors back from maternity leave
- Competitions: ORF-RE – in years past 4-6 applications were submitted; last year 28 NOIs resulted in 10 applications; this year will be more applications still;
- it is great to see so many researchers developing partnerships - January 19 is the deadline; researchers meet with the Faculty for discussion and to determine the strength of the partnerships
- SSHRC Partnership Development Grants – good community partnerships
- Smaller scale competition – ERA has more applications; 5 years ago there were 10-15, now in the 25-30 range
- 9 CRC applications will be submitted this fall:

- CFI – plans for JELF, more allocation anticipated
- Challenges of when researchers will apply – difficult for everyone to stay on schedule
- We have a close relationship with the CFI so keep them apprised on our plans; while CFI recognizes some need for flexibility, timely submission will be critical –

Gay Yuyitung

- Partnership/research funding; WATERMART presentation for CECR went well
- Doing more NSERC Engage and OCE – 10-15 throughout the year; number of applications from Science up; Business up as well (eligible for NSERC)
- MITACS – how to target more; MITACS graduate student fellowship grants have gone from \$15K to \$1M over 5 years; Opportunities for business, social sciences, and humanities; can be significant funding levels if they're part of a cluster; Success rate is over 90%;
- Drs. Sekuler and Deane met with the president of MITACS – more internship funding; \$15K over 4 months; new CONVERGE pilot program at MITACS
- Commercialization: interpretation document of IP policy, making it easier to read, getting good feedback
- Reviewing guidelines on selling shares we receive as part of commercialization; currently shares are held in the name of the University and divided as per IP policy; now drafting a policy which will provide clearer guidelines for both the university and inventors
- Success with ATH (anti-clotting drug) and ATTWILL – licensed out to a sub licensee
- IBDQ (Intestinal Bowel Disease Questionnaire) generates \$3M-\$3.5M annually for licensing – charged in US\$
- Turnstone with Brian Lichty - \$9M in venture capital funding
- Triumvira with Jonathan Bramson -- \$350K for cancer cell therapy
- Mark Tarnopolsky – biotech to manufacture treatments for mitochondrial diseases (Exerkine Corp) – clinical trials in next year or two
- Entrepreneurship initiatives with Sean Van Koughnett: The Forge; downtown location on James N.
- Renewal application for funding for the Forge in progress (funding is from province)

Barb McKenna

- Working on FICR distribution; working with hospitals
- Haven't heard about budgets; research finance busy with CFI reporting
- Cleaning up the data on PeopleSoft; haven't made progress with Mosaic; researchers like the reports but not the way they are delivered
- Two outstanding items with Tri-Council

Greg Weiler

- Figuring out changes in CIHR funding and the impact on researchers

- Negotiating the research portion of the affiliation agreement with HHS
- 2 largest foundation grants in the country – 17% success rate (beat national average)
- Some long-standing researchers didn't get foundation grants – what is that situation and how do we deal with it?

Dr. Peter Mascher

- Office of International Affairs has been moved to the Provost's portfolio – what does it mean?
- No way to separate research from International Affairs – lots of uncertainty; he still communicates with ADRs
- Launched 2 International Initiatives Micro Funds – response has been great; not enough money in the pot, they've only approved Round 1 with 10 proposals submitted for Round 2 (awards of up to \$5K/proposal)
- Dr. Parise asked how they vet the applications – Science has an International Strategy Advisory Group
- Dr. Mascher noted that the International Initiatives Fund is interdisciplinary and multi-Faculty, with Faculties putting money on the table
- General idea is that faculty work together with international collaborators or bring them here, or the grants are written elsewhere
- Discussed an International Strategic Advisor for isolated initiatives with Africa; emerging interests, many opportunities
- Idea to put together an "Africa Desk" – asking ADRs who's appropriate for this? Would like people to be of self-declared interest, not a faculty member seconded to the Desk; asked for ADRs to go to their departments to get names of those who are engaged in or want to be engaged with Africa research (both topical and regional areas – Africa is huge)
- Mr. Weiler asked about the NCOs understanding in Africa – Dr. Mascher noted they haven't started but have global health grand challenges
- The idea is not meant to fund research, but to lower the barriers
- Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh noted that his office is looking at developing partnerships at a proposed interdisciplinary retreat focused on exploring opportunities for partnering
- Kathy Charters mentioned that MILO and ROADS had offered workshops on how to develop research partnerships, lessons learned etc.; additional workshops are anticipated

7) Planning for the Upcoming CFI Innovation Fund Competition

- Draft call for proposals for the Innovation Fund final deadline (summer/fall 2016)
- CFI is hoping that the Innovation Fund will develop into a regular 2-year cycle – need to talk in the Faculties about planning initiatives for future competitions

- Internal competition seems to have become focused on obtaining the allocation vs developing the proposal itself
- Proposing a change to the internal process. While the first step was in the past a 3 page “blue sky” document, that is not as effective as has been in the past and now suggest sitting down with ROADS, HRS and Faculties for deeper discussion;
- Proposed that the second step in the process by a more fully formed application for internal review; will result in better informed decisions – if researchers are ½ way at this point, they won’t have far to go to develop a competitive application;
- Will request external review; while this is an extra step with coordination and some expense we think it will be beneficial
- Approval and provisional allocation will be provided; allocation will later be made final based upon the strength of the proposal
- Decision and allocation will be made by PVP
- VPR will provide the time of a “project manager” to assist in developing applications selected for submission to CFI