

**University Research Council Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 21, 2018**  
**2:00 – 4:30 pm**  
**JHE A114**

**In attendance:**

Rob Baker, Karen Mossman, Peter Mascher, Nick Markettos, John Preston, Gianni Parise, Sean Corner, Vivian Lewis, Kathy Charters, Gay Yuyitung, Tracy Arabski, Ranil Sonnadara, Lori Dillon, Danelle D'Alvise

**Regrets:** Jonathan Bramson, James Gillett, Khaled Hassanein

1. **Minutes of University Research Council Meeting of March 21, 2018**

Approved

2. **Report by VP Research**

- **Phil Hockberger Visit** – planned for April 17, but rescheduled by Dr. Hockberger to June 11. Associate VP Research at Northwestern University, who worked on Core facilities for 7 years; how they're funded and sustained. Western University also interested.

Three group sessions set up:

- a) Rationale on policy and how to do assessments
- b) Oversight
- c) Best Practices (Admin)

- **Materials Research**

- **McMaster Indigenous Research Institute (MIRI) Director Search;** still working on a plan for director

- **MIP CEO Search;** down to 4 candidates; hope to have decision in next few months

3. **Electronic Workflow (Rob Baker/Sherisse Webb, Director of ROADS)**

- Recognized need to simplify the application approval process - ROADS, HRS, MILO and RHPCS are working together to identify a system that will enable the use of smart forms and electronic workflow.
- Several options are being explored, including Mosaic - Mosaic does not support smart forms and institutions that currently use a PeopleSoft system for application approval have indicated that it is not user friendly.
- User-friendly options that account for the needs of all Faculties continue to be explored.

#### 4. **Business Intelligence – Faculty Data (Rob Baker/Kathy Charters)**

Security within new BI system was discussed. Discussion ensued about whether it would be helpful for Deans to be able to see the research funding (post-award) data for researchers in other Faculties and, if so, the level of drill-down capability that would be required. It was agreed that an example would be provided at an upcoming meeting to facilitate greater discussion.

#### 5. **CFI Innovation Fund – Planning for the Next Competition (Sherisse Webb, Kathy Charters)**

- Anticipated that CFI will issue a draft call for the next CFI Innovation Fund (IF) competition this fall; final call is expected early in the New Year.
- As in past competitions, each institution will be limited in the amount of funding they can request from CFI; little time available for proposal selection once the call for proposals is issued; necessary to start the selection process now.
- McMaster's goal is to improve success rates over the last few CFI IF competitions - proposals have been selected for further development and submission to CFI on the basis of limited information; researcher engagement tends to wane once projects have been selected such that there is a rush shortly before the deadline to complete the application.
- ROADS recommends that more detailed project information be requested from potential applicants early in the selection process to allow for better decision-making and more time to refine applications once they have been selected.
- Discussion about what kind of change to the selection process is required for McMaster to achieve greater success - some concern that researchers are being asked to do a lot of work that may not lead to an application to CFI; acknowledged that developing a full CFI IF application that is not competitive is also a lot of work without reward.
- Agreed that:
  - Faculties will play a greater role earlier in the selection process - Faculties will decide which projects led by researchers from their Faculties will be allowed to develop a more detailed internal application following review and discussion of a notice of intent submitted in September.
  - Support should be provided for proposal development.
  - Comments from external reviewers and the Faculties on internal applications should be shared with a multidisciplinary review committee of highly-successful McMaster researchers who will make recommendations to PVP about which projects should be selected for further development and submission to CFI.
  - Before making their recommendations to PVP, the review committee will meet with each project team for a Q&A session.
  - 10% of McMaster's IF allocation will be held back for late requests from projects led by other institutions.

## 6. **Big Tobacco Funded Research (Rob Baker)**

VPR took concerns to PVP, who do not want to proceed with a written policy at this time.

It was questioned whether research administration should advise the relevant Associate Dean Research, if they identify that a researcher is working with a company engaged in Big Tobacco.

## 7. **Research Funding and CRC Allocation (Kathy Charters)**

Documentation from the funding agencies was provided to demonstrate the methodology used to provide institutions with their number of CRCs and amount of funding from the Research Support Fund.

For the majority of programs, the credits for multi-institutional grants are divided proportionally among participating institutions based on the number of participating researchers from each institution, rather than the amount of funding received or spent. There are some exceptions, such as NCE, where funds from a single grant are redistributed among participating institutions through a formal process; in those cases, credits are divided among the institutions according to actual expenditures. There are also some cases where a single institution receives all the funding from the Research Support Fund directly from the program and negotiates with other institutions for their share.

More detail on the allocation of Canada Research Chairs can be found at [http://www.chairs-chaire.gc.ca/program-programme/research\\_funding-financement\\_recherche-eng.aspx](http://www.chairs-chaire.gc.ca/program-programme/research_funding-financement_recherche-eng.aspx) and on the Research Support Fund at <http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/apply-demande/calculations-eng.aspx>

## 8. **Reports from the VPR Team**

### **Karen Mossman**

Moving forward with core facilities/platforms; few universities have figured it out. Ottawa has developed a northwestern-light – check out UO website;

VPR noted that CFI appreciates platforms

### **Gay Yuyitung**

Ryan Caldwell – has been hired; MITACs joint hire – helping to get grants (biology grad); AMC is looking to hire someone similar with MITACs to split b/w universities

### **Ranil Sonnadara**

- New on-line research ethics system;
- McMaster experts – want to put forward proposal to pull data from faculty websites and vice-versa

### **Danelle D'Alvise**

Deadline for Royal Society of Canada new scholars has been moved to same as fellows.

## 9. Faculty Updates

### John Preston

- Students are doing data analytics; working with Vivian Lewis's group to pull publication lists and citations counts and compare with ranking lists
- Promote Hamilton and McMaster as a conference destination

**Meeting Adjourned**