University Research Council
Minutes
March 3rd, 2014
2:30 – 4:30 pm
MUSC 230

Attendees:
Mo Elbestawi, Chair
Fiona McNeill
Nick Markettos
Sherisse Webb
Gianni Parise
Tony Porter
Stephen Collins
Elsie Quaite-Randall
Peter Mascher
Barb McKenna
Bonny Ibhawoh
Naresh Agarwal

Regrets:
Kathy Charters
Greg Weiler
Vivian Lewis
Brent Davis

AGENDA

1. Minutes of University Research Council Meeting of December 16, 2013 (attached)

2. Business Arising/Action Items

3. Dr. Joaquin Ortega Request – CFI Purchase of an Upgrade of the Electron Microscopy Facility at FHS (Dr. Stephen Collins/Dr. Joaquin Ortega)

4. Other Business
MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 16TH, 2013

- Dr. Agarwal motioned to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2013 meeting and Dr. Collins seconded. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING/ACTION ITEMS FROM DECEMBER 16TH MEETING

1. Vivian Lewis was asked to contact the Faculties to set up presentations on Open Access and the Institutional Repository (Vivian Lewis)
   - Vivian Lewis has arranged for presentations to the Faculty of Health Sciences in May/June; arrangements with other Faculties are ongoing.

2. Each Associate Dean of Research and Vivian Lewis were asked to nominate a member of their Faculty/Library for the committee on Big Data Analytics and notify Dr. Elbestawi (All Associate Deans of Research and Vivian Lewis)
   - Dr. Elbestawi has received the nominations and Dr. Abigail Payne will be the chair/Coordinator of Big Data Analytics committee. She is in the process of organizing meetings with the nominated representatives.
   - Dr. Elbestawi has agreed to provide some funding for this on the pre-condition that all Faculties are involved and subject to a council vote.

UPDATE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Dr. Fiona McNeill is organizing workshop on nanotechnology on March 14th.
- The McMaster-Fraunhofer Project Centre for Biomedical Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (BEAM) is close to being finalized; the meetings on February 27th and 28th went well and all is proceeding as planned.
- A proposal to establish the McMaster Institute for Geroscience, to be led by Dr. Parminder Raina, will be put before the University Planning Committee in mid-March.
- The McMaster Industry Liaison Office submitted proposal for funding for a Campus Linked Accelerator (CLA) to the Province which requested $1M over 2 years to expand youth entrepreneurship in the community. McMaster is fundraising for $2M to finish approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of space at the Innovation Park for the proposed accelerator. All Faculties were supportive of this initiative and the CLA will be accessible to the entire University and will encourage interdisciplinary interactions. This campus-wide initiative does not preclude Faculties from pursuing their own independent entrepreneurship initiatives.
- McMaster’s success rate for the Early Researcher Award has increased to 38% and is above the national average of 33%. The majority of Faculties had a success story from the most recent competition.

PRESENTATION: CFI PURCHASE OF AN UPGRADE OF THE ELECTRON MICROSCOPY FACILITY AT FHS (DR. STEPHEN COLLINS/DR. JOAQUIN ORtega)

- The Electron Microscopy facility is approximately 30 years old; it does not have cryo capabilities and is only capable of providing low resolution images. As it stands, the facility is unable to deliver the data demanded for high impact publications and by funding
agencies and in 3-5 years the manufacturer will discontinue its maintenance service for the equipment.

- A CFI application was submitted in a previous round with the Faculty of Health Sciences as the lead but was not awarded; Dr. Ortega has continued to pursue the upgrade.
- Dr. Ortega plans to resubmit his application to the CFI Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF). In order to address the CFI reviewer comments that the usage of equipment by McMaster faculty was less compelling than the impact on external electron microscope user-community, Dr. Ortega has canvassed the Faculties of Science and Engineering regarding their current and ongoing usage and the benefits they would derive from an upgrade.
- This is becoming a pressing upgrade as soon McMaster researchers will have to outsource this work. This proposed upgrade would provide a competitive advantage and would produce highly improved high resolution images in a shorter timeframe (an afternoon vs. a week), the capability to show details at the nano level as well as 3D capabilities, enable examination of specimens in a hydrated state and provide an expanded field of view.
- The upgrade is estimated to cost $2M and $800,000 of this will be requested from CFI. Current usage rates are approximately 50% from the Faculty of Health Sciences, 21% from Engineering, 14% from Science and the remainder from external users.
- Proposal: the applicable Faculties make contributions to the purchase from the next round of CFI LOF allocations in proportion to their Faculty’s usage of the facility.

**Other Business**

- **NONE**

**Action Items**

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<td>Dr. Mascher and Dr. Parise to discuss the presentation proposal 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</td>
<td>Dr. Mascher, Dr. Parise, and Dr. Collins</td>
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