University Research Council
Minutes
January 13, 2016
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Mills Memorial Library, Room L304

Attendees:
Allison Sekuler, Chair
Naresh Agarwal
Bonny Ibhawoh
Vivian Lewis
Nick Markettos
Peter Mascher
John Preston
Pamela Swett
Gianni Parise

Lori Dillon
Kathy Charters
Susan Munro
Ranil Sonnadara
Gay Yuyitung

Invited to present
Bob McNutt
Byron Spencer

Regrets
Jonathan Bramson
Steve Collins
Tony Porter
Greg Weiler

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes URC Meeting of September 15, 2015

2. Business Arising/Action Items
3. Research Data Centre – Byron Spencer/Bob McNutt

4. Strategic Research Plan – Allison Sekuler/Kathy Charters

5. Canada Excellence Research Chairs Competition – Kathy Charters

6. Research Funding Credit and Reporting – Kathy Charters

7. Meetings at Israeli Universities & Third Annual Israeli Tech Transfer Conference Update – Peter Mascher/Gay Yuyitung

8. Upcoming Premier’s Delegation to India – Peter Mascher

9. McMaster IT Review – Allison Sekuler (see attached)

10. Indigenous Research Institute Update – Allison Sekuler

11. Water Institute Update – Allison Sekuler

12. Publication Cost Fund – Vivian Lewis

13. Reports from the VPR Team (Nick Markettos, Kathy Charters, Gay Yuyitung, Susan Munro, Ranil Sonnadara, Lori Dillon)

14. Faculty Updates – Associate Deans, Research

15. Roundtable Discussion/Other Business

1. MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

- Dr. Peter Mascher motioned to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting and Dr. Gianni Parise seconded. Motion carried.

2. BUSINESS ARISING/ ACTION ITEMS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 MEETING

- NOTHING BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THIS MEETING

3) Research Data Centre (presentation by Byron Spencer & Bob McNutt attached)

- Drs. Spencer and McNutt provided background on the Canadian Research Centre Data Network (CRDCN) and the Research Data Centre (RDC) at McMaster (history, network funding, budget)
• Noted that Dr. Martin Taylor has been appointed as the new executive director of the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN), beginning April 1, 2016
• Regarding income sources slide (Faculties): italics = hope to contribute; non-italics = existing contributions; looking at how the shortfall can be addressed moving forward
• Q & A from the URC:
  o Q : Can they charge user fees? A: occasional users have, other than tri-council funding; small numbers; there is a fee schedule for business/industry etc
  o Q: Can international users get access? A: those on research leave can charge, this happens on very few occasions; visiting scholars access the RDC but there is no charge
  o Q: what’s the arrangement with other universities? A: all universities make up their own shortfall; most research intensive universities get their VPRs to cover
• Dr. Sekuler noted that there is no discretionary funding therefore it will be coming from Faculties; she asked what happens if one Faculty says they won’t pay, therefore making it unfair for the other Faculties; at what point do you say your Faculty is cut off from using the services of the RDC?
• Dr. Ibhawoh used the example of the animal facility, saying that it is a similar situation; needs a broader discussion in view of the budget model; with new budget model nothing is in place;
• Dr. Preston said it needs the model to be fixed because everyone ends up doing “work arounds”
• Dr. Preston asked what the capacity was for new users and Dr. Spencer said that the larger facility will be in the Wilson Building; more physical space and work stations
• Drs. Spencer and McNutt noted that they have made grant requests and presented to Ontario ministries, undergoing a pilot project with Indigenous Affairs;
• Mr. Markettos asked if the province has been approached for funding; answered that might possible ask for funding for operating costs

4) Strategic Research Plan
• Kathy Charters noted that we are updating our SRP; there are new and resurgent programs
• We’re doing strategic mapping and review; holding off until things are more clear
• Identifying priority areas is required by the CFI and CRC programs – should succeed on two levels if our SRP aligns with our grants etc
• From Dr. Sekuler: Haven’t updated the model for the SRP since the 90s; need to be able to live with the investments we make

5) Canada Research Chairs/Canada Excellence Research Chairs Competition
• Kathy Charters sent around info re: CRCs – numbers, fit, or if they identify with identified groups ie women, visible minority, persons with a disability
• Noted that HR is doing an employment equity survey
• Need additional information re: strategies; she will be contacting the CRC program about best practices and will circulate that information to all Faculties
• Kathy noted that we are obligated to report, that the numbers are a target, not a requirement
• Dr. Parise asked how they determine these targets? Kathy answered that our percentage of grants is reflected in the number of CRCs allocated; there is a methodology for women; not tri-agencies combined; Dr. Parise noted that we don’t identify with other grants
• Dr. Ibhawoh noted this is true of any self identification process
• Dr. Sekuler said that on the Indigenous front, Humanities was hoping to bring someone in; hiring freeze with the budget model, having conversations with the Provost and President: if it’s a University priority then we should be bringing new people in; she also said that we are still struggling with meeting targets in 2016 – it’s disappointing
• Kathy Charters – with regards to the CRCs, comments from reviewers are useful and with our last round, there were all positive comments
• CERCs: two competitions, possible that another call will come out this month (January)
• Program provides a $10M award; seeking high level candidates with a team
• One chair in business innovation; deadline phase 1 is late 2016
• End of March for the CFI competition
• CFREF has to be submitted by the end of July
• Lose momentum over the summer therefore need to get going now because the applications are time consuming, collecting data etc
• When the call comes we’ll know the details; discussions with the new government; URC can share further thoughts with Kathy
• CFREF: plan out where we’re going; next call comes in 2021-22
• 2018 Phase 2 – need to think about long term plans; successful CFREFs have had CERC-led projects, need to look at this
• [General discussion around CERCs, the need to make the case internally that CERCs aren’t just about the funding, but also that the CERCs make a departmental footprint; budget model should not drive research priorities; possibility that priorities change over the next five years; data suggests that the linkages between CERCs and CFREF is a factor – do we want to build CFREF around CERCs?]

6) Research Funding Credit and Reporting – Kathy Charters

• Looking at research reporting on database at ROADS; designed with PI; with Mosaic and the budget model, need to think about a way to do it differently
• Through Mosaic assign credit with interdisciplinary research – goes to lead PI, more accurately reflects where activity happening
• Kathy will bring examples to the next URC to see if it’s helpful

7) Meetings with Israeli Universities & Third Annual Israeli Tech Transfer Conference Update
Peter Mascher & Gay Yuyitung

• Israel Embassy invited universities to visit their tech transfer offices; Israel is very successful with entrepreneurship and tech transfer – risk averse
• 40% of their GDP goes to R&D – 40% from multinationals
• It’s a country of 8M people – they met with the office of the chief of the chief scientist; Israel first – before the US/UK/Japan; 2012-13 = $481M in royalties
• They have a chief scientist at each and every ministry; deeply ingrained to turn research results into revenue
• MIP would lend itself to creating a Canadian presence for start-up companies, especially with the cheaper Canadian dollar
• Dr. Mascher noted that they love Canada in Israel, it’s not a hard sell; potential with people visiting here
• Generally speaking, issues of ownership pre-defined;
• Dr. Sekuler noted that it’s important to look at the research clusters that align with what Israel is doing
• Dr. Mascher is going back for a nano conference; meeting on neurosciences and neurotechnology

8) Upcoming Premier’s Delegation to India – Peter Mascher

• Going at the end of January with the Premier; originally just business; COU invited to go; still business but Allison Barr leading the university delegation
• They will visit four of the major centres; from Mac’s perspective, spend time with the business delegates; from the academic perspective, connect with the IITs and pan-IIT organizations

9) McMaster IT Review
• Review by the Provost and VP administration
• Kathy Denny coming to the next ADR meeting, possibly the next URC

10) Indigenous Research Institute Update – Allison Sekuler
• Draft proposal for the Institute
• Next stage is to the Indigenous Education Council; need future discussion; there is support from the President; it’s the topic at the next Ottawa day the beginning of February

11) Water Institute Update – Allison Sekuler
• Dustin Garrick on paternity leave; do we want to have a Water Institute? This came up with the CFREF from Saskatchewan; too many fragmented groups – need to cluster

12) Publication Cost Fund – Vivian Lewis
• Issue is that journals (STEM) change fees; author publication charges
• Several universities, range from large to small funding; we’re behind the curve; Ottawa and UofT closing their author funds
• Budget is not meeting the demand
• Asked about the ballpark total of fees, Vivian said that they don’t have that number, but it can be $1500-$3500 per article; one-half of Open Access articles have a fee
• Important area to investigate; universities closing the author fund
$10M per year @ Mac for author feels; 40-6-% paid by their grants or home department
Now a $700K shortfall in acquisitions based on USD$

13) Reports from VPR Team
- **Bonny Ibhawoh** spoke about the Interdisciplinary Fund – 37 applications, giving out 5 awards
- Prizes and Awards: trying to create a database; highlight those who’ve won a major awards
- Trying to be more pro-active with nominations ie to the Royal Society – tap those faculty members with a FRSC to provide some support and help with the nomination process
- Dr. Sekuler noted that for nominations to work the application has to be done more than a week before – can’t be last minute and be good
- Dr. Preston noted that clerical support is needed; we do have someone hired as a temporary position
- **Nick Markettos** said that the MIP review recorded a deficit of $300K; VP Admin said it was a good idea to review; strategic plans will deal with the financials and governance
- 1) continue with space support; 2) VPR becomes the chair of the Board of Directors; 3) Zach Douglas will present to the URC; 4) Financials – revenues from space
- Gay Yuyitung presented to the MIP Committee; MILO seen as something more to the committee than just contracts
- BEAM – received funding; contribution agreement has very detailed expectations, arrangement between MIP and the University about what is paid by whom
- Agreement between Faculties and MIP does not change
- If VP Admin wants to change the rate that has to be discussed with the Faculties
- Parking will be integrated

**Gay Yuyitung**
- OCE changing the overhead rate from 30% to 20%
- Funding reduced for the Forge

**Susan Munro**
- Enhancements to research project statements; push vs pull
- Hired Deloitte to help solve some of the issues (ie needed the ability to do queries – not reporting correctly)
- Good news is that was addressed and PIs can now run queries as well as Faculty; it’s taken about a year to fix Mosaic issues