UNIVERSITY OF ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Vice-President Research, Innovation & International

Report to Academic Council

November 2012

1. **Research Excellence Award Recipients, 2012**
   The 2012 recipients of the Research Excellence Awards were:
   - Senior Researcher: Dr. Douglas Holdway, Science
   - Early Researcher: Dr. Janette Hughes, Education

2. **Policy Development**
   a. The Animal Care Policy was approved by Research Board and has been transmitted to Academic Council for approval.
   b. Other policies and procedures under review and/or development include the royalty revenue distribution procedures, responsible conduct of research (formerly research integrity), research entities (groups, units, centres and institutes), and the policy on intellectual property.
   c. Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions
   UOIT has received for signature the new Tri-Agency *Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions* ("Agreement"), which replaces the *Memorandum of Understanding on the Roles and Responsibilities in the Management of Federal Grants and Awards* ("MOU"). We are currently reviewing the Agreement to determine if UOIT's policies and procedures are compliant with the terms and conditions. If we are not we will seek an extension to the date at which we are expected to be compliant. We are, for example, revising/updating our policies and procedures for animal care and use, human research ethics, and responsible conduct of research.

3. **Internal Activities**
   a. **New Awards**
   Since the last Research Board meeting, UOIT faculty members were awarded seven grants/contracts:

Researcher	Faculty	Sponsor	Program	Value
Nacke, L	FBIT	SSHRC	Partnership	$10,000

Nichita, E.	FESNS	MITACS	Accelerate	$15,000
Walker, A	FESNS	AECL		$161,250
Dincer, I	FEAS	HyrdoOne	Technical Study	$7,000
Mohany, A	FEAS	NSERC	Engage	$25,000
Mohany, A	FEAS	Bombardier	Contract	$42,000 in kind
Sood, V	FEAS	Ontario Research Fund	Research Excellence	$179,000

b. **Tri-Council Applications (Autumn 2012)** UOIT Totals, and breakdown by faculty

	Deadline	**Total**	EAS	ESNS	SCI	HSC	FBIT	SSH
NSERC								
Discovery Grants	01-Nov-12	28	10	3	9	1	5	
Research Tools and Instruments	25-Oct-12	16 (1)	5 (1)	3	3	2	3	
SSHRC								
Insight Grant	15-Oct-12	7				1	3	3
CIHR								
Operating Grant	01-Mar-12	2				1	1	
Operating Grant	17-Sep-12	1				1		
Partnerships for Health System Improvement	01-Nov-12	1				1		

c. **Strategic Research Plan**
Town hall meeting are being held on November 5th, 9:30-11:00 AM, on the North Location (ERC 1058) and November 7th, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM (Bordessa Hall).

d. **Strategic International Plan**
The Strategic International Plan (SIP) is under development and will be presented to the International Opportunities Committee and the Provost Council in November/December 2012. Two town halls will be held in early 2013 to seek advice on the SIP prior to submission to Academic Council.

4. **External Activities**
   a. Canadian Institutes for Health Research

Open Operating Grants Program (OOGP)

I had the opportunity to serve on the CIHR Humanities and Social Sciences Reform Advisory Group, which met on October 12, 2012. This panel, comprising of representatives from across Canada met to discuss the proposed reform to the OOGP and to advise on the structure and format of the proposed application modules. The group worked through the proposed application forms and recommended modifications that would make the forms more inviting to scholars from the Social Sciences and Humanities.

CIHR Governing Board

At its August 2012 retreat, the CIHR Governing Council reaffirmed its commitment to investigator-initiated research as central to the CIHR mandate and committed to stabilizing the open program through a notional budget increase of $10m per annum.

Governing Council also reaffirmed the importance of high-impact strategic programming for achieving COHR's objectives and improving the health of Canadians.

Common CV Project

CIHR continues to be apologetic for the role out of the CCV and its impact on researchers and institutions. CIHR did received 7000 registrations CV for the September Open Operating Grants competition.

2012 Open Competition

OOGP applications have remained stable for the last 6 competitions. CIHR received 2,333 applications, up slightly from 2,284 received for the March 2012 competition. The number of applications directed to social science related committees was 17% of total applications.
CIHR is targeting at least 400 funded grants.

b. SHARCNET

At the SHARCNET Board meeting of September 25, 2012, the primary items of business included an update on national and provincial initiatives, research support programs and the future of SHARCNET.

Nationally, the CFI-MSI conditions have been met, with Compute Canada recruiting a new CEO, CTO and completing a reorganization/ reincorporation. The Compute Canada board meeting was October 31st. UOIT has chosen, at this time, not to be a member of Compute Canada (cost $10,000) as membership does not have an impact of researcher access to regional or national compute resources.

Provincially, MEDI is proceeding with the formation of HPRC Ontario, which will bring together the three university-led HPC networks and, potentially, the research hospital networks. The province is working out its strategy with respect to the provincial match (~$22m) to the CFI-MSI.

SHARCNET faces a year-end fiscal challenge. With the CFI MSI funding announcement to be made in late November and the contract negotiations between Compute Canada, CFI and provincial departments to take additional time, SHARCNET institutions may be required to contribute to a bridging fund to support SHARCNET until the CFI-MSI funds begin to flow. UOIT's nominal contribution is ~$25,000 and is based on our faculty members' use of SHARCNET time and resources.

5. **Ontario Council on University Research**

The Ontario Council on University Research (OCUR) met on October 17-18, 2012. We met with the Tri-Councils. The NSERC presentation focused on upcoming consultations. Of particular interest to UOIT researchers are:

- Discovery Grants Program Evaluation: The evaluation will be broad in scope but will focus on impact of changes to program delivery. NSERC will survey researchers (funded and unfunded), HQP, deans and VPs. An international committee will advise NSERC.
- Open Access: NSERC Council supports the principle of Open Access to research outcomes.
  - o In the new Tri-Council Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions, universities are expected to adhere to the agencies Open Access standards: see for CIHR http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/34846.html; NSERC http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?Lang=En&n=9990CB6B-1; SSHRC http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/policies-politiques/open_access-libre_acces/index-eng.aspx).
- Major Resources: NSERC is developing a national strategy for supporting large national experimental resources through their lifecycles.

6. **Ranking Schemes**

The Globe and Mail published its Canadian University Report, a survey of undergraduate student; the Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA) published Measuring Academic Research in Canada: Field-Normalized Academic Rankings 2012; and Research Infosource published its 2012 Research University of the Year data.

As a new university, less than 10 years since our first intake of students, UOIT has performed very well.

a. Globe and Mail had one item dealing with research (Research Opportunities.) UOIT's score is B. Amongst the 16 universities with small enrollments (4,000-10,000), UOIT ranked 4th, tied with seven other universities.

b. In Research Infosource's annual ranking of Canada's top 50 research universities, UOIT did well in two categories. UOIT ranked 45th amongst the top 50 research universities in terms of research funding, up from 48th last year and ranked 38th amongst the Canadian Research Universities of the Year (we did not rank in 2011). UOIT did not rank amongst the top 10 Research Universities of the year (primarily undergraduate), as we did not score in the top 50% of the 5 categories.

c. The HESA study, Measuring Academic Research, employed two sources of data: "a bibliometric measure which measures both overall productivity and impact" (H-index) and "'current strength'", specifically NSERC and SSHRC expenditures for 2010-2011 (http://higheredstrategy.com/announcements/new-publication-measuring-academic-research-in-canada-field-normalized-university-rankings-2012/.)
    i. For science and engineering, UOIT ranked 41st of 55 universities (H-index) and 29th of 55 in the funding scores. Total "normalized scores" (combining both the H-index and funding scores) placed UOIT 33rd.
    ii. For social sciences and humanities, UOIT ranked 23rd of 61 universities for H-index and 49th of 61 on funding scores. UOIT placed UOIT 25th overall.

d. The Canadian Council of Academies published *The State of Science and Technology in Canada, 2012.* This report did not rank individual institutions but rather the "state of science and technology" in Canada. Amongst the positive outcomes reported were: Canada ranked 4th behind US, UK, and Germany by international respondents who were authors of the top 1% of cited research papers. Canada ranked amongst the top 5 nations in 16 of 20 fields of science examined. Canada excelled in clinical medicine, historical studies, ICT, physics and astronomy, psychology and cognitive sciences, and visual and performing arts. (See http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/news.aspx?id=93)