University Delegates Teleconference
April 4, 2013 – 12:30-1:30pm ET
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario

Participants

Chair: Danika Goosney, Director, Science, Knowledge Translation and Ethics

Members:

Christian Baron, Université de Montréal
Lori Burrows, McMaster University
Noreen Ek (on behalf of Dean Care), Brandon University
Peter Cattini, University of Manitoba
Keith De'Bell, St. Francis Xavier University
Lori Schindel Martin (on behalf of Faith Donald), Ryerson University
Réjean Dubuc, Université du Québec à Montréal
Janice Eng, University of British Columbia
Bareket Falk, Brock University
Denise Figlewicz, University of Western Ontario
John Fisher, Queen's University
Lucie Germain, Université Laval
Norbert Haunerland, Simon Fraser University

Shanthi Johnson, University of Regina
Gerry Johnston, Dalhousie University
Dale Keefe, Cape Breton University
Joseph Lam, University of Guelph
Richard Leduc, Université de Sherbrooke
Julian Little, University of Ottawa
Marianna Newkirk, McGill University
Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University
Roger Pierson, University of Saskatchewan
Reinhart Reithmeier, University of Toronto
David Rose, University of Waterloo
Otis Vacratsis, University of Windsor
Joanne Simala-Grant (on behalf of Richard Wozniak), University of Alberta
Gerald Zamponi, University of Calgary

Regrets:

Lionel Berthoux, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Janet Bryanton, University of Prince Edward Island
Michael D. Buschmann, Polytechnique Montréal
Michael Hayes, University of Victoria
Shawn Hayley, Carleton University
Mary Lou Kelley, Lakehead University
Olga Kovalchuk, University of Lethbridge
Star Mahara, Thompson Rivers University
Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University
Lucia O'Sullivan, University of New Brunswick

Michael Owen, University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Geoff Payne, University of Northern British Columbia
Proton Rahman, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Lauren Sergio, York University
Chris Shields, Acadia University
Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University
Peter Twohig, Saint Mary's University
Nancy Young, Laurentian University

Staff:	Jane Aubin, CSO/VP, Research and Knowledge Translation	Jonathan Faulkner, Manager, Strategic Investment Planning and Reporting
	Kelly VanKoughnet, Associate VP Research and Knowledge Translation	Lynne Scholten, Ethics Policy Advisor - Stem Cell
	Jennifer O'Donoughue, Director, Program Support and Business Transformation	Marc Gushue, Public Affairs Officer, Public Affairs and Outreach
	Peggy Borbey, Director, Open Programs	Stacey McKinnon, Engagement Lead
	Joanne Ledger, Manager, Training and Engagement Stream	Sera Paktunc, Analyst, Engagement
	Annik Poirier, Deputy Director, Program Delivery	Gordana Krcevinac, Director, Tri-Council Harmonization Project, SSHRC
	Linda Mealing, Manager, Business Transformation and Strategy Integration	Matthieu Cyr, Analyst, Research Capacity Strategy

Welcome Message

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30p.m. and welcomed the University Delegates (UDs). A roll call was done, followed by a round table of CIHR staff attending the meeting.

It was announced that Jennifer O'Donoughue, Director, Program Support and Business Transformation, will be replacing Danika Goosney as Chair of the UD network while Danika is on maternity leave.

1. Update to the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) Harmonization project

Gordana Krcevinac, Director, Tri-Council Harmonization Project, SSHRC, presented an update on the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) Harmonization project.

The UDs were sent the *Tri-Council Harmonization of the Canada Graduate Scholarships: A Discussion Guide* in advance of the meeting.

A brief introduction of the CGS Harmonization project was provided highlighting the introduction of new elements to the delivery model including:

1. Enhancing co-delivery of the CGS program with Canadian institutions
2. Harmonizing delivery mechanisms, policies, and tools
3. Devolving the CGS Master's program to the institutions
4. Fully harmonizing the CGS Doctoral program

Using the discussion guide as a point of reference the following issues were discussed:

Allocation/Distribution of funds
- Questions were raised about the allocation formula for the CGS Master's program and how scholarships would be distributed within the university.
- Concerns were raised about the risk of scholarships being attributed to larger vs. smaller institutions.
- It was explained that the agencies will develop a fair and transparent selection process and will provide guidelines to the universities on the selection process. However, it was noted that the universities will be required to identify their internal priorities and distribute scholarships accordingly.
- The distribution of CGS awards will remain the same (CIHR: 400, NSERC: 800, SSHRC: 1,300 for both Master's and Doctoral awards).
- Different options for the allocation formula are being reviewed, such as the CRC model.

Deadlines
- It was mentioned that the lack of deadlines for the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) program was difficult to manage and caused delays.
- It was recommended that the CGS timelines be in-line with the registration timelines.
- A common national application and national decision deadlines are being considered.

Adjudication
- The availability of peer reviewers may be limited at smaller universities due to conflict of interest.
- Finding peer reviewers from specific disciplines may be difficult at smaller institutions.
- Including an additional adjudication process may be problematic.
- It was noted that selection criteria will be the same for all three councils.

Other
- It was confirmed that only research-based programs would be eligible and that a common definition for program eligibility is being drafted.
- A question on whether the harmonization team has been or will be looking at data estimating the need for future trainees, was posed. It was explained that these issues are being reviewed as part of the overall training strategy and are not limited to the harmonization of the CGS.
- The importance of maintaining the Research Allowance ($5K) at the doctoral level was discussed. The UDs were supportive of maintaining the Research Allowance amount.

The UDs were encouraged to continue to provide their feedback on the CGS project. Feedback can be sent by email to: harmonization@cgs-besc.gc.ca.

The UDs were informed that the Canada Graduate Scholarships program discussion guide is available on the NSERC website at: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Harmonization-2013_eng.asp.

2. CIHR Reforms

Jane Aubin, CSO/VP, Research and Knowledge Translation, presented an update on CIHR's proposed reforms to the Open Suite of Programs and peer review process.

CIHR Institution Visits

CIHR is continuing its institution visits across Canada. Dr. Aubin thanked the UDs for their understanding and good wishes with respect to a personal emergency, which necessitated rescheduling four of the institution visits.

The current discussions at the institution visits reflect quite strong support for the program design, and are generally focused around details of the two funding schemes and the eligibility criteria. Some within the research community continue to have concerns regarding the virtual component of peer review, the disappearance of committees, and the composition of the Stage 3 assessment committee. Some concerns continue to be expressed regarding what is meant by the institutional support requirement for the Foundation Scheme, and the proposed changes to the peer review process. Discussions with institution administration representatives have encouraged CIHR to revisit the vision for enhanced support. CIHR is working with institutions to refine the vision, but would like to clarify that institutional support is not focused on dollar amounts. CIHR is planning a discussion in the upcoming months with institutional Vice-Presidents of Research to further discuss the topic of institutional support as well as other key informants to continue with detailed program and peer review design. These topics will be discussed at the UD face-to-face meeting in June.

A question was raised to obtain clarification regarding eligibility and roles for applicants to the Foundation and Project schemes. UDs were referred to the Design Document and were assured that further discussions on eligibility and roles will be discussed at the June face-to-face meeting.

The UDs proposed additional topics for the June face-to-face meeting including:
- Clarifications around how the final assessment committee will evaluate different disciplines of research ("apples vs. oranges").
- Adjudication criteria to be used by the final assessment committees
- Credentials of College of Reviewer members

An updated list of reforms-related Questions and Answers is being developed and will be posted to CIHR's website once available.

3. Update on Signature Initiatives

Due to time constraints this agenda item was deferred to the May 9, 2013 UD teleconference.

4. Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars (CAPS) survey

Danika Goosney, Director, Science, Knowledge Translation and Ethics presented the CAPS survey.

The Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars (CAPS-ACSP), with support from Mitacs, is conducting a national survey of Canadian postdoctoral scholars. This survey is a follow-up to the 2009 survey. The UDs were asked to disseminate the survey to their departments and encourage postdoctoral scholars to complete the survey. The survey requires approximately 20 minutes to complete and will be available until April 29, 2013.

The UDs were sent the link to survey following the teleconference.

Adjournment

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, and adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:30p.m.