October 30, 2006
Research Data Technology Centre Advisory Council

Minutes from Meeting
19 October 2006

Council:
Roderic Beaujot, Sociology (Academic Director)
David Bellhouse, Statistical and Actuarial Sciences (regrets)
Joyce Garnett, Chief Librarian (regrets)
Iris Gutmanis, Evaluation and Research, Parkwood Hospital
Ted Hewitt, Research V-P (Alison Ariss sends regrets as replacement)
Julie McMullin, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Science
Reza Nakhaie, Sociology, University of Windsor (Daniel Edelstein acting as replacement)
Chris Robinson, Economics
Moira Stewart, Family Medicine (Sarena McLean as replacement)
Stewart Thornhill, Ivey
Staff:
Cynthia Cook, Statistics Canada (Senior Analyst, Regional Supervisor, regrets)
Bradley Corbett, Statistics Canada (Analyst)
Vince Gray, Social Science Network and Data Services (Liaison Officer)
Zenaida Ravanera, Information Officer

1. **Minutes of 17 February 2006**

Minutes are being posted on RDC web site after they have circulated and corrected.

2. **Director's Report**

On personnel questions, we need to replace Jamie Campbell as student representative, since he has completed his studies at Western. Daniel Sahleyesus has also completed his studies and is no longer the RDC administrative employee. Bradley Corbett has obtained the position of Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology. Zenaida Ravanera is employed as Information Officer for the RDC on the basis of one day per week.

Council reviewed the Report to Statistics Canada, dated 19 May 2006. Since the opening of Western's RDC, there have been a total of 42 projects associated with the RDC, with 35 principal investigators. A total of 72 researchers are associated with these projects (32 students). A total of 66 persons have swipe card access to the RDC (42 researchers and 24 service personnel). No update on research output is available since March 2005.

RDC National Coordinating Committee: The RDCNCC has obtained $800,000 from SSHRC and

$600,000 from CIHR for operating expenses in 2006-07. This includes expenses at the NCC level, in particular the employment of a Knowledge Transfer Officer. We will hear in November regarding the CFI application which would establish a secure hard-wired network across RDCs, help develop meta data on the data sets, and renew hardware and software. The NCC meets twice per year, with Raymond Currie as chair, the Academic Directors, Statistics Canada personnel, and representatives from SSHRC and CIHR. In effect, Statistics Canada provides the operating structure and the NCC provides the governing structure. The NCC seeks to facilitate access, enhance training and knowledge transfer.

3. **Budget**

The remaining CFI budget has been used to purchase hardware and software.

The budget, showing actual for 2005-06 and projected for 2006-07 and 2007-08 was reviewed. The question was raised of having other Faculties besides Social Science contribute to the budget. There is also the potential of partners contributing to the budget. The understanding is that access is granted to researchers and students who are eligible for SSHRC/CIHR funding, given the contribution of these councils to the operating expenses. Access is also granted to all researchers from the institutions making contributions to the operating expenses, either as home institutions of the RDC or as partners. Other agencies, in particular federal or provincial governments, have access based on fees.

4. **Newsletter proposal for knowledge transfer (Ravanera)**
Besides knowing about the projects that are using RDC data, we need to keep track of the products of this research. Zenaida Ravanera will help with this, through the web site and newsletters aimed at researchers and at a broader public. Beaujot will write to the researchers who have access to the RDC indicating that Ravanera will be contacting them for the products of their research. The bibliographic reference to the products will be listed on the web site, with access to the full document if possible. Ravanera reviewed other plans to select specific products to profile in an electronic newsletter.

5. **Outreach on campus**

Joint course on data and analysis: Corbett will bring together a committee to determine the possible niche for a graduate course that would use RDC data, offered to students in various disciplines.

Workshops: On 2 March, David Binder and Georgia Roberts presented "The whys and hows of analysing complex survey data," and on 29 June by Jennifer Macnab presented "Preparing for analysis" and James Chowham presented "Applying bootstrap weights in Stata using BSWREG." these were well received. Brad Corbett presented to the SSNDS short courses, 10 October on "What data and how to access data." He is available to give a version of this talk in various venues. Workshops on given data sets can also be scheduled. Brad can take advantage of the subject matter personnel from the various surveys that will be presented to the meeting of

Analysts in November.

National RDC conference: It was decided to offer Western as the site for a conference in 2009. Beaujot and Ravanera to suggest a topic after review of projects and products using the UWO RDC.

Statistical consultant: The Montreal RDC has employed a statistical consultant. We need to determine which researchers would need analytical assistance.

Exit interview: There was support for the idea of having an exit interview at the time of disclosure, to determine how the process has worked, to establish training and assistance needs, and to have knowledge on anticipated products. Corbett is to develop this idea further.

Corbett presents to the new faculty orientation and he can present to faculty development workshops. He presented at the 18 October conference on Eco-system Health.

Corbett is available to make announcements to graduate student orientation, or to graduate methods courses. He will develop a slide that professors could use in their own classes.

6. **The "to do" list based on CFI application**

Collaborative joint research link with Simulated Data Centre at Cornell University: There is no activity, and Chris Robinson is to determine where this stands.

Development of event history software (Fernando, no report).

Internet Data Library System (IDLS) for use within RDC: This is on hold given the CFI application of the NCCRDC. Given that Quebec universities are joining the IDLS system, there is a strong case for using the IDLS approach within networked RDCs.

Links with Waterloo, McMaster and Toronto, especially for training and workshops: James Chowham of the McMaster RDC was involved in the * presentation.

Mexico/INEGI. Rod Beaujot attended the 6 October meeting regarding IASCM (Institute of Advanced Studies Canada-Mexico, Hugo De Lasa of Western Engineering and Benito Serranto of University of Zacatecas) where there was discussion of attracting PhD students from Mexico who are funded to study abroad by CONACYT fellowships from the government of Mexico.

7. **Other business**
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