

5 August, 2008

**Research Data Technology Centre  
Advisory Council**

**Minutes of Meeting  
27 June 2008, 3:00-4:30, SSC 9430**

**Council:**

Roderic Beaujot, Sociology (Academic Director)  
David Bellhouse, Statistical and Actuarial Sciences  
Joyce Garnett, Chief Librarian (regrets)  
Iris Gutmanis, Evaluation and Research, Parkwood Hospital  
Tedd Hewitt, Research V-P (Alison Ariss as possible replacement) (regrets)  
Julie McMullin, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Science  
Reza Nakhaie, Sociology, (replaced by Daniel Edelstein), University of Windsor  
Chris Robinson, Economics  
Bridget Ryan (student representative) (regrets)  
Moirra Stewart, Family Medicine (regrets)  
Stewart Thornhill (replaced by Taiyuan Wang), Ivey

**Staff:**

Cynthia Cook, Statistics Canada (Senior Analyst, Regional Supervisor, on leave)  
Bradley Corbett, Statistics Canada (Analyst)  
Vince Gray, Social Science Network and Data Services (Liaison Officer) (regrets)  
Zenaida Ravanera, Information Officer

**Documents:** (attached)

Minutes of meeting of 2 November 2007 (posted on web site)  
Budget dated 24 June 2008 (available on request)  
Annual Report to Statistics Canada dated 27 June 2008 (available on request)

**1. Minutes of 2 November 2007**

The minutes have been approved and posted.  
Business arising: The Partnership with University of Windsor will continue, since Windsor is establishing a Branch RDC.

**2. Budget**

The budget was reviewed.  
The funding formula for allocating the SSHRC/CIHR grant is unchanged for 2008-09.  
We have not sought funds from other Faculties beyond the Social Sciences.  
The amount of carry forward in the Social Science Operating account is being reviewed.  
A case is made for a carry forward of \$18,010 based on amounts that have not been spent over 2006-07 and 2007-08, and the need to set funds aside for a National RDC conference in Fall 2009. More funds could also be spent on

workshops and student fellowships.

### **3. Activities of the Research Data Centres National Coordinating Committee**

The first phase of the CFI Leading Edge Grant is establishing a Virtual Private Network.

Four Centres are now on the network, and cost estimates are being established so that Western can receive the funds to connect to the network in Fall 2008.

The next National Conference is in Ottawa (17-18 October 2008), entitled “Comings and Goings: Migration, Policy and Society”.

A National Bibliography of RDC publications is established.

### **4. Topic of 2009 conference and forming an organizing committee**

Western will host the Fall 2009 National RDC Conference.

Agreement to use the topic of “Health over the Life Course.” The topic is to be defined broadly, to include social determinants of health, and to range from economics of health care to questions of nutrition. Preference is for papers based on RDC data, but use of RDC data is not essential.

Names proposed for a committee: William Avison, Roderic Beaujot, Jason Gilliland, Iris Gutmanis, Heather Laschinger, Zenaida Ravanera, Moira Stewart.

Need to locate the health research that is being done, taking advantage of Criterion 2a of the Mid-Term Review.

### **5. Projects, researchers, products**

Review of Annual Report to Statistics Canada.

Criterion 1 – Projects and Researchers: Data from across the RDC network shows that Western at about 11<sup>th</sup> in the relative ranking. This corresponds with Western being the 11<sup>th</sup> centre to open (September 2004). Appendix A lists 69 projects where the Western RDC is the primary or secondary site of the research.

Appendix B list 99 persons who have used the UWO RDC, including 76 people from Western, 14 from University of Windsor, and 9 others.

Criterion 2 – Project Output: We list a total of 95 items for 2001 to May 2008 (61 items for 2005-2007). The complete list is shown in Appendix C. Vignettes highlight projects by Dorothy Forbes, Rajulton Fernando and Reza Nakhaie. Criterion 2a lists projects with significant health component (30% of projects; complete list given in Appendix D).

Criterion 6 on methodological and statistical advances highlights the work of Bradley Corbett on the development of standardized area level health and social measures for use in advanced statistical models.

### **6. Presentations, workshops, training, knowledge mobilization, networks**

Review of Report to Statistics Canada

Criterion 3 – Training and Employment: There is a total of 13 theses completed or in progress, plus 35 other projects involving students. Students comprise 32% of users. Training occasions are listed, theses using RDC data are summarized and a vignette on students and careers focuses on seven specific students.

Criterion 5 – Knowledge Mobilization Activities: Events and audiences are listed and summarized, with a focus on the web site, newsletter and brown bag series. The 3-4 April Knowledge Translation Training was very successful (funded as a pilot project by the Cluster on Population Change and Lifecourse).

Criterion 7 – Networks of collaboration: The report highlights the Cluster on Population Change and Lifecourse and the strategic initiative with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Advanced Statistical Modelling Research Unit: All are welcome to the workshops and meetings that are to continue once per term, with WebCT for exchanges over the year.

Workshops, modules, courses, programs, virtual courses: Brad to make presentations to incoming graduate students in various departments in the Fall orientation sessions. Virtual courses using Web casts were suggested, using existing exchange arrangements for paying fees and receiving credits.

Health topics at Brown Bag should take advantage of the e-list of the Aging and Health Research Centre, through Gale Cassidy.

Media releases for Western's Media Relations Office should be sent through Anna Ziolecki of the Social Science Research and Graduate Services.

Training of young scholars should include preparing effective posters, in addition to preparing media release and PowerPoint presentations.

## **7. Major objectives and projections**

Review of Report to Statistics Canada.

Criterion 8 – Major objectives: Advance of the IDLS system.

Criterion 9 – Projections: focus on the proposed Interdisciplinary Development Initiative on "Population and life course studies," the Policy Research Institute in the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the prospect of a collaborative graduate program in methods and statistics for social research.

Partnership with University of Windsor, to become a Branch RDC: Construction is basically set to start at Windsor, with strong likelihood that the connection to the Virtual Private Network will be funded by the CFI grant. An MOU is being developed to establish the services and the cost sharing.

## **8. Other business**

Journals that require an ethics sign-off on secondary data analysis: The ethics committees consider that research based on secondary data from Statistics Canada does not require an ethics review. Nonetheless, some medical research journals require that an ethics form be completed. It was proposed to have a form letter signed by Statistics Canada to the effect that project output, assuming project approval and disclosure avoidance, do not need any further ethics review. Alternatively, departments can have ethics sub-committees that review projects using secondary data, for journals requiring an ethics review.