

March 15, 2010

**Research Data Technology Centre  
Advisory Council**

**Minutes from Meeting  
12 March 2010, 3:00-4:30, SSC 5406**

**Council:**

Roderic Beaujot, Sociology (Academic Director)  
David Bellhouse, Statistical and Actuarial Sciences (regrets)  
Eeva Munoz, replacing Joyce Garnett, Chief Librarian  
Iris Gutmanis, St. Joseph's Health Centre London (regrets)  
Dan Sinai, replacing Ted Hewitt, V-P Research  
Andrew Nelson, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Science  
Daniel Edelstein, Academic Director, Branch RDC, University of Windsor (regrets)  
Chris Robinson, Economics  
Katherine Breward (student representative) (regrets)  
Moirra Stewart, Family Medicine (regrets)  
Stewart Thornhill, Ivey

**Staff:**

Cynthia Cook, Statistics Canada (Senior Analyst, Regional Supervisor) (regrets)  
Bradley Corbett, Statistics Canada (Analyst)  
Vince Gray, Data Librarian, Western Libraries  
Zenaida Ravanera, Information Officer

Welcome to Katherine Breward, student representative on Council

**1. Minutes of 13 April 2009**

The minutes have been approved and posted.

Business arising: There has been follow-up on only some of the suggestions for increasing uptake (Item 5) and knowledge mobilization (Item 7). The October conference has been a major effort in the direction of uptake and knowledge mobilization.

**2. Budget**

Notes:

1. We need to budget for the full cost of a "one analyst service" from Statistics Canada, which is \$120,225 in 2009-10.
2. The \$3,180 "indirect cost" for dissemination is a real dollar contribution from the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Population Change and Lifecourse.
3. The \$25,000 of "indirect cost" for computer assistance should probably be reduced, see Item 9 below.
4. Given that the SSHRC/CIHR operating grant is coming to the end of the five years, the

remaining funds in these accounts are largely being spent this year, thus the UPIF amount from the Faculty of Social Science is reduced.

### **3. Statistics Canada and Research Data Centres National Coordinating Committee**

The CFI Leading Edge Grant has three components:

1. Meta data (no report here)
2. Virtual Private Network: The routers were purchased centrally, the costs of initial fibre installation have been billed from ITS to CANARIE who are looking after this component. The CFI will only pay the \$150 campus monthly fee and the \$500 regional monthly fee (to ORION) for the first year. We are trying to reduce the campus and regional monthly fees because some other campuses and regions have zero fees. The VPN is now connected and expected to be operational by 1 April 2010, but further delays are likely.
3. Renewal of equipment. The decision on whether to go the thin client route will be made by the end of April. This will affect the local expenditures.  
The application for the next five years of SSHRC/CIHR operating funds is being reviewed, and a decision is expected by the end of April.

A new Executive Director of the Canadian RDC Network is to be in place by 1 July 2010.

### **4. Branch RDC at University of Windsor**

A Memorandum of Understanding for sharing costs has been established.

The opening will occur as soon as final verifications of security systems are complete. The Academic Director and Statistical Assistant (12.5 hr per week) are in place.

### **5. Conference on Health over the Life Course, UWO, 14-16 October 2009**

The full final report is available at:

<http://www.rdc.uwo.ca/conference2009/Final%20Report%20on%20the%202009%20RDC%20conference.pdf>

This Seventh CRDCN conference has been very well received. There were 120 participants, with two-thirds from 16 Canadian and 5 US universities, and the other third from federal, provincial and regional government and service agencies. Besides the conference grant from the CRDCN (\$15,000), we received a grant from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (\$15,000), and \$13,500 from various units at Western. The registration fees collected \$8,400, for a total budget of \$51,900.

The conference proceedings are posted at:

<http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/rdchealthconference/>

The next two conferences are as follows:

2010: Queen's University: Economic Relations between Children and Parents, with a pre-conference workshop on Structural Evaluation of Economic Policy.

2011: University of Alberta: Boom or Bust: Have we learned any lessons about this cycle over the past 100 years?

### **6. Statistics and Data series (Ravanera)**

This series seeks to ensure that faculty and graduate students are aware of available data, and it

provides training in the use of data.

The series is organized in conjunction with the Inter-Disciplinary Initiative on Population and Life Course Studies.

As seen in Appendix A, there were three presentations in 2008-09, and eight in 2009-10. The one week workshop (summer institute on Longitudinal Data Analysis), held in May 2009, is scheduled for 7-11 June 2010. Registration is open.

Discussion: We are attempting to obtain a publicly available file from a Statistics Canada longitudinal survey for teaching purposes. It was suggested to consider using the three year longitudinal file of the Labour Market Activity Survey instead of the British Household Panel Survey. In the longer term, a larger RDC space would allow for holding the workshop within the RDC. There may be interest on the part of Ontario ministries to fund the workshop in exchange for training opportunities for civil servants.

### **7. Knowledge mobilization and impact (Ravanera)**

The Brown Bag series and RDC@Western Research Highlights has the objective of showing the finished product that can come from research based on RDC data, promoting the dissemination of the research in the media, and discussing implications as well as future directions for research in given domains.

Appendix B lists the five Brown Bag presentations from 2008-09 and three from 2009-10.

It was suggested to hold the presentations at locations close to the presenter's Department, rather than having them all in the SSC.

See: <http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/rdchighlights/>

### **8. Projects, researchers, products**

The Annual Report for 2008, dated 11 June 2009, is available on request.

**For products see:** <http://www.rdc-cdr.ca/>

The cumulative list of users of the UWO RDC as of 1 July 2009, shows 75 from UWO (43 FSS, 2 Education, 9 Schulich, 7 Health Sci, 6 Ivey, 2 others, 6 SSNDS), plus 11 from UofWindsor, and 9 others, for a total of 95 persons.

As of 2 March 2010, the Information Officer has on file 10 new projects from 2008 and 11 from 2009.

Comparative data from the Microdata Access Division Manager's Report of October 2009 shows that in terms of "adjusted dyads" UWO ranks 10<sup>th</sup> among the 14 RDCs of the country, with 4.2% of total dyads (p. 5). On "number of primary contracts" UWO is 9<sup>th</sup>, with 4.4% of the total, and on "total number of researchers" we are 9<sup>th</sup> with 3.3% of the total (p. 6). These activity levels are in line with UWO having been the 10<sup>th</sup> centre to open, and they are also in line with UWO ranking in terms of proportions of national funding from granting councils.

In the discussion on how to increase the uptake in the various Faculties, the following suggestions were raised:

- Use ROLA to target researchers in given areas
- Make a presentation to meeting of Associate Deans of Research
- Make new data available, especially Business data

- Show links to RDC data in the Data Library System
- In the RDC website, show new data sets available at the RDC
- continue to make presentations on RDC data and access in various venues

## **9. ITS support**

Three members of ITS have been accredited for entry into the RDC. The primary technical support is through SSNDS, but we depend on ITS for questions that cannot be handled by SSNDS. We need to write a note describing the situation, including needs that cannot be satisfied through SSNDS, to ensure that we have the back-up support from ITS when needed.

## **10. Schedule of next meetings**

Proposed dates:

24 Sept 2010, 3:00-4:30

4 March 2011, 3:00-4:30

## Appendix A

Report for Advisory Council Meeting, March 12, 2010

### A. Statistics and Data Series at Western – 2008-2009

1. *Data Access at the RDC*, Rod Beaujot and Brad Corbett, January 15, 2009 – about 40
2. *From SPSS to STATA*, Brad Corbett, February 2, 2009 – 31
3. *Interested in Tracking Social Change in Canada over the past 20 years? Try the General Social Surveys*, Heather Dryburgh, April 3, 2009 – 25
4. *Summer Institute on Longitudinal Data Analysis* -- May 19-23, 2009
  - 33 participants: 28 graduate students; 5 faculty and researchers – 26 from Western, University of Toronto, Queens, UBC, U of Montreal, and INRS
  - Focus: Longitudinal analysis of categorical data
  - Instructors: Rajulton Fernando, Alain Gagnon, Piotr Wilk
  - Data: British Household Panel Survey
  - Budget: \$14,500 -- \$4700 from participants, \$9,800 from PLCS/IDI
  - Participant evaluation – very positive; on data set – use Canadian data

### B. Statistics and Data Series at Western – 2009-2010

#### Data:

1. *Accessing Data at Western using Equinox, <odesi>, and the Statistics Canada's web site*, Elizabeth Hill, September 16, 2009 – 50
2. *Access and use of RDC data*, Rod Beaujot, Brad Corbett, and Zenaida Ravanera, October 21, 2009 – 14
3. *Survey Methodology at Statistics Canada*, Brad Corbett, December 16, 2009 – 16

#### Statistics: (See posters)

4. *Analysis of Complex Survey Data*, David Bellhouse, January 20, 2010 – 29
5. *Introduction to HLM*, Paul Pare, February 24, 2010 – 24
6. *Survival Analysis using R*, Bruce Jones, March 24, 2010
7. *Introduction to Stata*, Rajulton Fernando, April 15, 2010
8. *Introduction to MPlus*, Piotr Wilk, May 12, 2010
9. *Summer Workshop on Longitudinal Analysis*, Rajulton Fernando, Piotr Wilk, & Alain Gagnon, June 7-11, 2010

## Appendix B

### UWORDC Brown Bag Series

2008-2009 and 2009-2010

The Brown Bag ♦ showcases research done at the Research Data Centre ♦ provides a forum that focuses on research implications ♦ fosters interdisciplinary exchanges.

The [Research Highlights](#) describes the presentation at the Brown Bag.

Date	Presentation	Research Highlights
February 10, 2010	Andrea E. Willson, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario <i>'Fundamental Causes' of Health Disparities: A Comparative Analysis of Canada and the United States</i> (29)	<a href="#">More equal than others? `Fundamental causes' of health disparities in Canada and the United States</a>
December 9, 2009	Graham J. Reid, Department of Psychology and Department of Family Medicine, University of Western Ontario <i>The relation between common sleep problems and emotional and behavioral problems among 2- and 3-year-olds</i> (9)	<a href="#">Sleep matters: Why getting toddlers to sleep, and to stay asleep, is important</a>
November 11, 2009	Wolfgang Lehmann, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario <i>Leaving University Without Graduating: Evidence from Canada's Youth in Transition Survey</i> (33)	<a href="#">"First-generation" university entrants are no more likely to drop out early on than students with university-educated parents. Or are they?</a>
April 8, 2009	Teresa Abada, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario <i>Pursuit of University Education among the Children of Immigrants in Canada</i> (28)	<a href="#">Parents and Friends Make a Difference in the Education of Children of Immigrants</a>
March 11, 2009	Roderic Beaujot, Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario <i>Attitude toward Childbearing outside of Marriage in Canada</i> (17)	<a href="#">Modern family attitudes, more childbearing: Exploring a low-fertility paradox</a>
February 11, 2009	Piotr Wilk, School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences and Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science, University of Western Ontario <i>Predictors of Motor Vehicle Collision Injuries</i> (8)	<a href="#">Motor Vehicle Collisions: What Influences the Risk?</a>
November 12, 2008	Nicholas David Spence, Post-Doctoral Fellow, First Nations Project, University of Western Ontario <i>New Vistas on the Income Inequality-Health Debate: The Case of Canada's First Nations Reserve Population</i> (26)	<a href="#">Does socioeconomic context influence the health of Canada's First Nations population?</a>
September 10, 2008	Dorothy Forbes, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Western Ontario <i>Gender Differences in Use and Availability of Home and Community-Based Services for People with Dementia.</i> (11)	<a href="#">Caregivers of Men with Dementia Carry Inordinate Loads.</a>