

20 March, 2012

**Research Data Technology Centre  
Minutes of Advisory Council Meeting  
9 March 2012, 3:00-4:30, UC 113**

**Council:**

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

**Staff:**

Cynthia Cook, Statistics Canada (Senior Analyst, Regional Supervisor, regrets)  
Bradley Corbett, Statistics Canada (Analyst)  
Vince Gray, Data Librarian, Western Libraries  
Mike Houlahan, Statistical Assistant, University of Windsor (by conference call)  
Zenaida Ravanera, Information Officer  
Heather Stevens, SSNDS

**Documents:**

Minutes of meeting of 30 Sept 2011 see  
[http://rdc.uwo.ca/Advisory\\_Council/20110930-UWORDC-minutes.pdf](http://rdc.uwo.ca/Advisory_Council/20110930-UWORDC-minutes.pdf)  
Budget sheets dated 1 March 2012  
UWO-RDC-Proposal for High Level Network & Security Architecture (pp. 1 and 7)  
Cover letter dated 23 November 2011 on CFI Equipment List Request

1. Minutes of 30 September 2011

2. Budget

The CRDCN is covering ORION fees, at least for 2010-11 and 2011-12.  
Four months of administrative help is being added to the expenditures (March-June inclusively),  
@ \$600 per month, to help in collecting data from users and producing the Annual Report.

In previous years, the line item for "Statistics Canada Services" was taken from the \$50,000 from FSS (Dean), and from the SSHRC/CIHR operating grants. As of 2011-12, the line item under "secretarial and administrative services" will also be taken from the

SSHRC/CIHR operating grants.

The expected total costs from FSS (SY32) in 2011-12 is \$6,100.

The carry forward (in the SSHRC/CIHR operating grant) as of 1 May 2011 was \$5571.

The difference between revenue and expenditures for 2011-12 will generate a further carry forward of \$18,370, making a total carry forward on 1 May 2012 of \$23,941.

If our request to the CFI budget is approved, it will cover the hardware, software and installation costs for equipment renewal. However, we will have to spend the funds before receiving payment.

### 3. Statistics Canada and Canadian Research Data Centres Network

#### 3.1. CRDCN – CFI Equipment List Request & Approval Form (dated 23 November 2011).

The total requested is \$40,633.81, corresponding with the UWO allocation of \$40,375.98. This is to cover hardware, software and installation costs. The balance of \$257.83 will be absorbed in the operating budget. We expect the transition to occur in late summer or early fall 2012.

After review of use and costs, the software to be installed is listed in Appendix A. This Appendix is a notice that will go out to users in case there is need for other software.

There was a suggestion that GIS be installed on all workstations. While this could be done at no financial cost, the installations are very time consuming, and for now the plan is for GIS to be available on only one station.

#### 3.2. UWO-RDC Proposal for High Level Network & Security Architecture (dated 2 Feb. 2012)

Given the WAN, all RDC's are moving in the direction of having a switch and encryptor between the restricted zone and the operations zone (see Figure 1 on page 7). These are being provided by Statistics Canada. The specifics of the UWO installation have been drawn up by SSNDS and approved by Statistics Canada. The University of Windsor application has also been approved.

#### 3.3. Information needed for Annual Report 2011.

The request for information from users will be more extensive to now include: dominant substantive focus by contract (labour force related, financial security related, health related, other), details on student training and employment, courses taught, involvement with research networks, collaboration with government agencies, collaboration with NGOs, sources of funding, list of publications, list of conference related activity, media mentions by type of media.

#### 3.4 CRDCN Annual Conference: Evidence-based policy formation and evaluation, Fredericton, 23-24 October 2012

#### 3.5. Revised “applications process guidelines” page

This revised page especially makes it clearer whether the application should go through SSHRC or through a federal or provincial focal point. Research for government departments need to be approved through the corresponding focal point. Applications from local government still go through SSHRC but they should be identified as “unaffiliated

researcher". Access fees are involved for contracts approved through a focal point or by unaffiliated researchers.

The question of an exit survey or user satisfaction survey was raised. Concern was expressed that such a survey would more likely reflect unrealistic expectations regarding the kind of help users would like to receive. The application process and orientation seek to make it clear what users are expected to know and to be able to do on their own. Further discussion of this question was put off to Sections 6 and 7 of the agenda.

3.6. Network's newsletter: the Networker at [www.rdc-cdr.ca](http://www.rdc-cdr.ca)  
Sarah Fortin is working on an active web site and newsletter.

#### 4. Director's report

##### 4.1. SSC1020 for occasional use as an RDC classroom

We are seeking approval from Statistics Canada to have SSC1020 used occasionally as an RDC classroom. Given the limited space in the RDC, this will permit the use of SSC1020 as an instructional room to demonstrate RDC data manipulation. If we receive approval from Statistics Canada, this is expected to be of use for the summer workshop on longitudinal analysis in the summer of 2013. There would be further security on the door, and the instructor's computer would access RDC data. If our design is approved, the costs will be limited to the installation of computer cables.

##### 4.2. Presenting to Associate Deans of Research, post-doc research day, MYTAX mixer, All Residents Day, etc.

Given the turnover in ADRs, a presentation will be arranged in the Fall.

There is willingness to make presentations to other groups as the opportunities and needs arise.

#### 5. Report from Windsor Branch RDC (Daniel Edelstein)

Three projects have been recently completed and there are now five active projects, but three of these involve co-investigators at Windsor with the PI at another RDC. The pre-existing demand has been satisfied and there is now need to promote the RDC to other potential users.

The Advisory Council has been established and needs to meet.

The Masters in Social Data is in its first year, and there is potential for this to generate further use in the future.

#### 6. Statistics and Data series Brown Bag series (Zenaida Ravanera)

##### 6.1. *CRDCN Research Highlight / RCCDR En évidence*

With the agreement of the CRDCN Knowledge Transfer Officer, we have signed an MOU to have Scholarship@Western host this series, which will now include entries from other RDCs, translated by CRDCN. The number of entries per year is still to be determined. At this point there are 10 Highlights, all from Western.

##### 6.2. YouTube

It was decided to continue recording the brown bag presentations, and to also record the Statistics and Data presentations. To pay for this, we will discontinue the lunch that precedes the

presentations. We will offer only coffee, tea and cookies, with the invitation that participants bring their own lunch.

YouTube links are to be uploaded in the UWORDC and CRDCN websites and will also be sent to Windsor Branch. This facility is also to be used for modules related to the orientation for new users.

#### 6.4. Report on 2011-12

Since the start of the academic year in September, the Statistics and Data Series has had 6 regular presentations, 1 special presentation (by Francesca Greselin of the University of Milano-Bicocca) and a 3-day Statistics Canada Health Data Workshop. Attachment B shows that these presentations have been well attended. Two more presentations are scheduled for the rest of the academic year.

The Brown Bag Series has had 2 presentations, both of which were on health-related topics. These presentations were video-recorded. One more presentation is scheduled in April, which will be held at the Ivey School of Business.

#### 6.4. Program for 2012-13

Following on this year's program, there could be 8 presentations in the Statistics and Data Series, and 4 in the Brown Bag Series. This year's 9<sup>th</sup> presentation (the 3-day Statistics Canada's Health Data Workshop) will not be held in 2012-13 as a workshop requires at least a year of preparation and a budget of about \$6,000 (the amount budgeted in this year's workshop). It would be possible to hold another workshop in 2013-2014.

For the Statistics and Data Series, topics that were suggested were: Regression when data do not have normal distribution, OCUL Geo-spatial portal, Canadian National Household Survey (to take advantage of DLI training on this), multilevel analysis using HLM

The presentations could be linked with Windsor once better audio-visual facility (with proper software) has been obtained.

#### 7. Collaboration between UWORDC and ICES Western

ICES operates under a rather different model, with physicians as the primary users group, and typically a case method approach. Researchers pay for having the technical personnel produce the needed output. Researchers include some \$20,000 in their grant applications to pay for this service.

A meeting will be proposed to Amit Garg, the Scientific Director at ICES Western, to include Andrew Nelson, Rod Beaujot, Iris Gutmanis, Brad Corbett and Vince Gray.

Potential areas of collaboration involve:

- RDC data as denominators and SES indicators for analyses of ICES data.
- Links to aggregate level indicators developed at RDC
- LHAD: Longitudinal Health Administrative Data
- Health Measures Survey, Survey on Living with Neurological Conditions in Canada

- Workshops/training: merging, weighting, ...
- Collaboration across researchers
- Providing technical assistance: Could we obtain a grant to set up a unit that would eventually be self supporting.
- The map and data resource unit at Western Libraries has proposed that a help desk be established with a specialist in GIS and statistical applications.

8. Name:

We will continue to have the official name of “Research Data Technology Centre”, but we will use UWO RDC as our name on the web site and at Statistics Canada.

9. Web site renewal

Please send any suggestions to Zenaida Ravanera as the web site is being renewed.

10. Listing of courses relevant to RDC

Epidemiology 9563, Health Services Research Methods  
 Bus 9870, Structural Equation Modelling  
 Bus 9860, Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis  
 Soc 9026, Longitudinal Data Analysis  
 Others?

11. Summer Workshop in Longitudinal Analysis

The IDI on Population and Life Course Studies is able to provide some support to students who would use the summer workshop as a basis for a thesis or project that involves RDC data.

12. Other

Congratulations to Katherine Breward on her appointment as Assistant Professor at University of Winnipeg. We need to find a new student representative on Council.

13. Dates and locations for meetings:

Dates: 28 September 2012 and 8 March 2013, 3:00-4:30  
 Location: seek to use UC 113 in order to connect by video conferencing to University of Windsor.

14. Adjournment

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Attachment A:

To: UWORDC Users

From: Rod Beaujot, Academic Director

The UWORDC is taking advantage of a CFI grant obtained by the Canadian Research Data Centre Network to renew the workstations and server. We are using this occasion to upgrade to 64 bit.

The purpose of this note is to indicate the choices of software that we have made. The software that will be purchased and installed:

AMOS  
HLM  
MATLAB,  
MPLUS  
SIGMAPlot  
SPSS  
STATA  
STAT/Transfer.

In addition, the following will be installed (they are either free or available through the University license):

ADOBE  
ARCGIS  
Windows OS  
MS Office  
MS VB  
SAS  
R  
AmeliaView  
MIM  
EPI, Info,  
Interaction,  
Adobe AIR.

Roderic Beaujot  
UWORDC Academic Director

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Attachment B:

## **Western RDC Brown Bag Series & Statistics and Data Series at Western 2011-2012 Academic Year**

### **Schedule, Presenters, Topics and Number of Participants**

SSC 5220 – presentations 12:30-1:30

SSC 5230 – lunch 12:00-12:30

### **RDC/PLCS Statistics and Data Series at Western:**

3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month

1. October 26, 2011 – **Elizabeth Hill** and **Vince Gray** -- Data Access at Western: Use of Equinox, <odesi>, and Statistic Canada's website – 19 participants
2. October 19, 2011 – **Ivan Medovikov** – Time Series Analysis – 22 participants

3. November 9, 2011 – **Brad Corbett** and **Mary Ellen Kuenzig** – Research Data Centre: When and How to Access Data – 21 participants
4. November 23, 2011 – **Duncan Murdoch** -- Exploring Data with Statistical Graphics in R – 25 participants\*
5. December 14, 2011 – **Tim Conley** – Simulation Techniques of Analysis – 24 participants\*
6. January 18, 2012 – **Paul-Philippe Paré** -- Missing Data Techniques – 45 participants\*
7. February 21-23, 2012 – **Abdelnasser Saïdi** and **Rose Evra** -- Statistics Canada Workshop on Health Data -- 35 on first day, 17 for the entire 3 day workshop
8. March 21, 2012 – **Anabel Quan-Haase** -- Social Network Analysis: When social relationship is the dependent variable
9. April 25, 2012 – **Iris Gutmanis** -- Survey Design: From effective survey questions to layout and design

Special Presentation:

September 30, 2011 – **Francesca Greselin** (University of Milano-Bicocca), From Gini to Zenga: The development of a new way to assessing income inequality – 16 participants

**Western RDC Brown Bag Series:**

Wednesdays following the first Friday of the Month

1. February 8, 2012\*\* – **Kate St. Cyr**, Predictors of posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicidal ideation among Canadian Forces personnel in a National Canadian Military Health Survey – 10 participants
2. March 7, 2012\*\* – **Bridget L. Ryan**, Understanding adolescent and young adult use of family physician services – 14 participants
3. April 11, 2012 -- **Alison Konrad**, The Vocational Well-Being of Workers with Childhood Onset of Disability: Life Satisfaction and Perceived Workplace Discrimination (Venue: Ivey)

\*with telephone connection to Jennie Thompson, Correctional Services Canada, Ottawa, listened to by one or more participants.

\*\*video-recorded

Zenaida Ravanera, March 7, 2012