

October 12, 2012

**Research Data Technology Centre
Advisory Council**

Minutes of Meeting, 11 October 2012, 3:00-4:30, SSC 5428

Council:

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

Staff:

Cynthia Cook, Statistics Canada (Senior Analyst, Regional Supervisor)
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

Invited:

Lorraine Davies, Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Science

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Announcements

Thanks to Moira Stewart and Katherine Breward who have retired from the Council.
Welcome to Sisira Sarma and Alexandra Bozheva who are joining the Council.

There is a new protocol for researchers who are non-Permanent Resident/Canadian, in terms of getting access to data as deemed employees of Statistics Canada. This protocol on "Deeming International Researchers" requires: (1) a co-investigator who is a PR/Canadian, (2) a letter of reference attesting to the character of the researcher and the legitimacy of the research purpose, and (3) a letter of acknowledgement from the Graduate Dean (for researchers who are graduate students). For graduate students, the procedure essentially requires that the university will use its existing procedures "to conduct an internal review and address this issue as is appropriate under our university guidelines for dealing with student misconduct". The protocol also involves a

letter to the VP-Research sent from Statistics Canada for each non-PR/Canadian researcher. As of 12 October, this protocol is in place at Western.

3. Minutes of 9 March 2012

see <http://www.rdc.uwo.ca/Minutes/20120309-UWORDC-minutes.pdf>

4. Budget

Carry forward in SSHRC grant: \$12,418.57.

Carry forward in CIHR grant: \$12,418.60.

Budget sheets were distributed along with a document dated 27 July 2012 on “Research Data Centre in Budget and Planning, 2013-14”

In the 2012-13 SSHRC/CIHR, Western/Windsor are receiving \$109,479, which represents 5.4% of total \$2,017,784 allocation. In this allocation, Western/Windsor is ranked 6th, after CIQSS (Montreal), Toronto, UBC, McMaster, and COOL (Carlton, Ottawa).

The 2013-14 budget is to place computer assistance (ITS and SSNDS) as direct costs.

The 2013-14 budget is to be submitted through Tracey Adams, Chair of Sociology. There will be need to work out how the revenue is obtained from the various faculties and the central administration. In these discussions, the prospect of the RDC Academic Director being from another faculty should also be raised.

5. Director’s Report:

5.1. CRDCN – CFI Equipment Renewal:

Request dated 23 November 2011, revised on 9 May 2012, was approved.

Western’s share is \$40,375.98.

5.2. UWO-RDC Proposal for High Level Network & Security Architecture (Version 0.4 is dated 15 July 2012).

Services were interrupted for at least six weeks with the migration to new equipment and new systems involving a centralized active directory. A variety of circumstances created what was experienced as “perfect storm” conditions, including Western being in the first set of Centres doing the migration, and holiday times in the summer for both Statistics Canada and Western personnel. There are still some issues to resolve. Eventually there will be the simplification of having all RDCs in one active directory, but in the meantime there are new routines to put into place. Now that it is an integrated system, there are further maintenance needs in terms of operating system patches and anti-virus, besides questions of back-up and deep-freeze. Western and Waterloo were the first to undergo the migration. Some Centres have not yet purchased the new equipment. We decided to migrate as soon as possible because our server was showing signs of instability. The Advisory Council commends SSNDS and RDC staff for their tireless dedication to the success of the equipment renewal and the migration to a new “High Level Network & Security Architecture,” under these difficult circumstances.

Two lessons are learned: A large operation should have clearer lines of authority. We need to budget for dedicated support from ITS, patterned on agreements in place at other campuses.

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

5.5. Revised “applications process guidelines” <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/rdc-cdr/process-eng.htm>

5.6. Network’s newsletter: the Networker at www.rdc-cdr.ca.

5.7. Renewed UWORDC web site: <http://www.rdc.uwo.ca/index.htm>

Thanks to Zenaida Ravanera.

5.8. Coordination with ICES at Western and presentation to incoming Associate Dean of Research at Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.

A poster on the RDC is on display at ICES.

ICES@Western is now scheduled to open in December or January.

The 7 November presentation in the Statistics and Data series will be on “Using the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) Western Facility, by Amit Garg, Theresa Hands and Salimah Shariff.

There is interest in coordination on training, a common repository of self-learning materials, and taking advantage of the protocol that has been developed for RDCs.

The ICES@Western Scientific Discussions are an opportunity for training. The meetings are at Victoria Hospital, with the next meeting on 19 November, 4:00-5:30.

5.9. SSC1020 for occasional use as an RDC classroom:

This protocol has been approved, but will need to be updated given the new system of door entry security..

5.10. Statistics Canada Workshop for Researchers on Business Microdata Analysis, 31 October 2012, Ottawa.

5.11. Data questions:

There are now close to 200 surveys/data sets available

Canadian Cancer Registry Data is now available.

The administrative data set on Uniform Crime Reporting is into a piolet.

The 1991 Census linked file is into a piolet. This data set links to subsequent mortality and cancer, including using tax data to follow change of address.

Program cuts at Statistics Canada includes the longitudinal part of SLID

Business Data: This access is being organized by John Baldwin, at Statistics Canada. There is a cost associated with accessing business data; if funding from outside sources is needed, this necessitating some 12-15 months of lead time. The protocols being used match those in RDCs, with the objective to eventually provide access through the RDC network.

There is much data development and documentation yet to be done because there has not been a tradition of public use files for business data.

Canadian Vehicle Survey and Travel Surveys are available.

LADD (Longitudinal Administrative Data) is undergoing a pilot, with broader access in about a year. This includes the tax files and the immigration landing data.

The GSS on Victimization, in its most recent version, includes a survey taken in the north of Canada.

The Survey of Young Canadians replaces NLSCY; it is cross-sectional.

Censuses 1911-2006 are all available except 1961 and 1971. The 1971 census will be available after the work has been done for 2011. The 1961 census will not be available.

The 2011 Census and Household Panel Survey are expected for Fall 2013.

5.12. Executive Summary and selected tables from 2011 Annual Report (see Appendix A)

6. Report from Windsor Branch RDC (Daniel Edelstein)

A meeting of the University of Windsor RDC Advisory Council was held on 25 September 2012. This has brought interest in promotion of the RDC, given that there is less activity after an initial flurry of projects. Dan will be speaking to graduate research classes and faculty groups.

In relation to migration to new equipment, the Architecture document is being approved, and there is need to coordinate with IT personnel.

7. Statistics and Data series, Brown Bag series, (Zenaida Ravanera)

The program for 2012-13 was distributed. Both series are being video recorded.

There is good diversity in the presenters for the Statistics and Data series. For next year, it was suggested that there be more presentations that focus on a given data set, ending with some examples from the presenter's own research.

Links from the Windsor RDC website has been made to the training resources available at Western RDC, including videos of the Brown Bag and Stats and Data Series. If there is interest among researchers, Dan and Mike will inform Zenaida which presentations should be considered for possible phone or video links.

There is concern that narrow topics in the Brown Bag series will involve limited audience. It was decided to co-promote presentations that are based on RDC data in other series, such as those in Ivey and in the Health Sciences. Iris and Sisira will communicate with the person in charge of the series at Epidemiology and inform Zenaida of possible collaboration

8. Summer School in Longitudinal Analysis (Lorraine Davies)

This Summer School will occur over two weeks, 13-24 May, 2013. Each of the three courses will be offered either for a course credit (includes an evaluative component) or a certificate (no

evaluation): Advanced Statistics (Paul Paré), Survival Analysis (Kate Choi), Panel regression with fixed and random effects (Richard Wanner). The first two will be offered in half days over two weeks, and the third for full days in the first week. The fee for students will be \$1000.00

There is potential to also have a non-credit workshop on “how to” use RDC data. This would be in the second week, in the RDC classroom (SSC1020). The fee has not been established.

It was suggested that course descriptions make obvious the pre-requisites for each course, providing links to self-learning material that could be used to meet these requisites.

9. Developments at Maps, Data and Government Service, Western Libraries

A GIS librarian is being added to the personnel of this unit.

There are plans for a potential computer room for GIS and other (Arc-GIS, STADA, SPSS, etc.) instruction. The idea of employing a statistical consultant remains alive, to staff a help desk and to provide training courses.

10. Other:

Welcome to Fatima Iba who has been employed as Statistical Assistant in the RDC.

11. Dates for next meeting: 8 March 2013, 3:00-4:30

12. Adjournment

Appendix A.

Executive Summary and selected tables from the 2011 Annual Report

The UWO RDC opened on 2 September 2004, being the 11th RDC to open in the country. The infrastructure was built based on an application to CFI as a stand alone grant. In May 2010, a Branch RDC was opened at the University of Windsor. The UWO RDC is staffed by a full-time Analyst, part-time Statistical Assistants both at Western and Windsor, and a part-time Information Officer. The Centre also profits from the presence of a Senior RDC Analyst.

The Centre benefits from the IT support of the Social Science Network and Data Systems in the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Maps and Data unit of Western Libraries, and Research@Western of Western Libraries. The Windsor branch benefits from the IT support of the Leddy Library and the Centre for Smart Community Innovation.

Projects, researchers and products

Appendix 2 shows the 49 contracts that were active in 2011 (including 8 projects located at Windsor, 1 of which has Windsor as a secondary institution).

Appendix 3 lists 100 researchers who used the RDC in 2011 (71 from UWO, 15 from University of Windsor, and 14 others). Students represent 34% (34 of 100) of the researchers who have used the UWO RDC. The average monthly adjusted dyads are 148.4 at Western and 13.8 at Windsor, representing **5.3% of the system total** (see Table 1a of Research Data Centres Program Manager's Report dated April 2012).

Appendix 1 lists the total products from the UWORDC. In 2011, there were 37 products, compared to 29 in 2010, 28 in 2009, 37 in 2008, 25 in 2007 and 19 in 2006. There were 10 theses completed (8 MA and 2 PhD.) In addition, there are 15 projects (out of 42 active in 2011) involving students. The weighted total output were 51.5 in 2011, representing **4.75% of the system total**.

Knowledge mobilization

Starting in 2007, a UWORDC Brown Bag Series has been held with three main objectives: (a) to showcase research done at the RDC, (b) to provide a forum that focuses on research implications, and (c) to foster interdisciplinary exchanges. To be selected for presentation at the Brown Bag, the paper must have been published (or accepted) in a peer-reviewed journal, the thesis has been successfully defended, or the report has been accepted by the agency to which it

was submitted. This allows focusing on the implications of the research findings, on the assumption that the research itself has undergone a review process.

As of 2012, the [Brown Bag Series](#) is video-recorded and made available through *YouTube*. An arrangement has also been established with CRDCN for a series that takes the same format as *RDC@Western Research Highlights* but that is open to all researchers in the Network. The Western RDC contributed to the development of this new bilingual series, called *CRDCN Research Highlight / RCCDR En evidence*, also made available through Western Libraries:

http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/crdcn_rccdr/.

The RDC is strongly associated with the SSHRC-funded Population Change and Lifecourse Strategic Knowledge Cluster, the UWO Population and Life Course Studies Inter-Disciplinary Initiative, and a strategic initiative with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Access to data and training

We have collaborated with the Inter-Disciplinary Initiative on Population and Life Course Studies in sponsoring a “[Statistics and Data Series at Western](#).” In the Fall, we start with a presentation on accessing publicly available data, then access and use of RDC data, followed by presentations on specific data sets and analytic techniques. In 2011, there were 11 presentations and a week-long Summer Workshop on Longitudinal Data Analysis. The strong attendance, with an average of about 25 participants per session, indicates that this Series is responding to an important need (see Appendix 5). The 2011 Summer Workshop on Longitudinal Data Analysis held on June 6-10 included two sections, one covering basic techniques and the other going on to more advanced techniques of longitudinal analysis.

Renewal, expansion and collaboration

The [RDC website](#) has been redesigned for a better presence in the internet.

The CFI Equipment List Request & Approval Form (dated 23 November 2011) was accepted for equipment renewal purchases totaling \$40,376. The UWO-RDC Proposal for High Level Network & Security Architecture is under development, as is the WIND-RDC branch proposal.

An adjoining room to the RDC is being linked for occasional use as an RDC teaching room (SSC 1020). The protocol for this room has been accepted by Statistics Canada, allowing for one workstation to be linked to the RDC server during the times when the room is secured for RDC usage.

We are seeking means of collaborating with ICES@Western which will open in Fall 2012. The collaboration could include participation in the Statistics and Data series, facilitating the use of data from both centres on given research projects, or support staff for data manipulation and statistical help. Posters are being exchanged to ensure that researchers know about both facilities.

The following are taken from pp. 6-7 of the Annual Report from 2011. The adjusted dyads and weighted publications count are entered into the allocation formula.

	UWO	Windsor	Total	%of system
Average monthly Adjusted dyads				
2009	116.2	0	116.2	4.3%
2010	146.0	2.4	148.4	5.0%
2011	148.4	13.8	162.2	5.3%

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Net growth of contracts	FirstA	Carry	React	Withd	Compl	Total	%of system
2009	31	29	1	2	9	72	4.9%
2010	19	43	6	0	1	69	5.1%
2011	18	44		2	16	80	5.1%

First Activated, Carry over, Reactivated, Withdrawn, Completed, Total at UWO, Total at UWO as % of system total.

Data show UWO and Windsor together, that is the UWO Total.

UWO in total publications on CRDCN web site (updated as of 10 July 2012):

*needs to be updated

Year	UWO	Total	%from UWO
2000-03	4	117	3.4
2004	5	108	4.6
2005	2	148	1.4
2006	4	189	2.1
2007	10	248	4.0
2008	18	322	5.6
2009	12	385	3.1
2010	11	422	2.6
2011	18	403	4.5
2012	1	53	
Total	85	2393	3.6

To be updated based on www.rdc-cdr.ca/statistics