

9 April 2013

**UWO Research Data Centre  
Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting of 15 March, 2013, 3:00-4:30, SSC 5406**

**Council:**

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

**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  
Fatemeh Eghabali Zarj, Statistical Assistant, Western

**Invited:**

Brian Timney, Dean, Faculty of Social Science (regrets)  
Andrew Watson, Associate Dean, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry  
Roderick White, Associate Dean, Ivey School of Business

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**2. Announcements**

Welcome to Fatemeh Eghabali Zarj, Statistical Assistant at the UWO RDC.

**3. Minutes of 11 October 2012**

see <http://www.rdc.uwo.ca/Minutes/20121011-UWORDC-minutes.pdf>

#### 4. Budget

Budget sheets were distributed along with the 30 October 2012 document entitled "Research Data Centre in Budget and Planning, 2013-14." The budget sheets follow the format used in the Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN), including expenses shown as direct costs and indirect costs. The Statistical Assistant at Windsor is now shown neither as an expenditure nor revenue item.

As explained in the "Budget and Planning 2013-14" document, the main increases in the expenditures compared to 2012-13 are as follows:

1. Given the level of activity, Statistics Canada is requiring that we have an Analyst (84%) and two Statistical Assistants (part-time). This will have the additional benefits that the Centre will be able to be open for 16:00-20:00 two nights per week, and the Assistants will be able to perform more of the IT functions (especially software updates).
2. As proposed at the previous meeting of Council, the "Computer assistance" line is now shown as a "direct costs". This includes a service contract with ITS for a half day per week of dedicated support (\$728 per month), and an equivalent amount for SSNDS.
3. The WAN annual fees have been covered by the CFI but it is not sure whether this arrangement will still be in place in 2013-14.

CFI Equipment Renewal, Western's share is \$40,375.98.

8 workstations	\$14,334.82
Server	14,765.90
Laptop	1,045.47
Software	4,239.45
Installation costs (ITS)	3,471.00 (\$1456 for 2 months + \$2015 for 65 hr)
Installation costs (Stat'l A.)	3,506.99
Back-up software	<u>938.97</u>
Total	\$42,302.60
From CFI	\$40,375.98
From Western	\$1,926.62

Mid-term review of SSHRC and CIHR grants to CRDCN (\$2.3 million per year for 5 years): A report will be needed by 1 August 2013 for the mid-term review on the SSHRC and CIHR operating grant. There is a sense in the funding agencies that the Network is doing well but that some individual RDC's or Branch RDC's are not doing so well. Besides the overall summaries, the report will include a one page summary of each RDC's activity (including each Branch RDC). These will be due mid-June, with Annual Reports due 31 May 2013.

Seeking other sources of funding: Negotiations are ongoing to have Citizenship and Immigration Canada make a financial contribution associated with data files that are being transferred to the RDC network. We would also like to have HRSDC make a "partnership" contribution to funding the Network. At a meeting with Bob McNutt (CRDCN Executive Director) and Byron Spencer (Chair of CRDCN Executive Committee), Chad Gaffield proposed that the Network should

“think big or go home”. A proposal for “big data” is being developed by the Executive Committee, covering questions of data access, training and knowledge mobilization.

CANARIE and ORON: Since CANARIE is being required to recoup \$3 million from users, there is expected to be pressure on the WAN servicing the CRDCN to pay more of the costs.

According to the 2011 Annual Report, 48% of users are from Social Science, 29% from Medicine and Dentistry, 18% from Business, and 5% from Health Studies.

Jerry White indicated that the RDC budget is going beyond what the Faculty of Social Science can handle. The office of the V-P Research is seeking to have the WAN regional fees packaged as a single contract with the other ORION payments from Western. Unless we can find funds from other parts of the University, we will need to restrict access to the numbers that can be accommodated with the existing Statistics Canada personnel.

It was noted that the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry is the main player for the costs of the ICES facility. ICES and the RDC operate under rather different models, but there is potential for collaboration in terms of (1) aggregate level measures based on RDC data applied to ICES data, (2) collaboration on “help desk” functions. It was noted that the RDC is cost effective for both research and training.

A business model might be used to bring the costs against given research projects, based on the research projects that are using the facility. This approach might be used to “charge back” the costs for a given Faculty.

It was left to the Associate Deans to work out the specifics of budgetary collaboration. The RDC is a core facility, which also justifies budgetary involvement of the office of V-P Research.

## **5. Data Access**

The Canadian Centre for Data Development and Economic Research (CDER) provides access to business data that is not available through the RDC’s. The access is at head office in Ottawa, see Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, 31 October 2012. There is strong interest on the part of the Ivey School to have more business data in the RDC.

The pilot project on the Canadian Cancer Registry Data is now complete, and these data are now available for RDC projects.

A pilot is underway on the 1991-2006 Canadian census mortality and cancer follow-up study.

Recently released data sets: SLID 2010, GSS 25 (2011 Family), LFS (Jan-Aug 2012).

Longitudinal Administrative Data: There is a pilot to access the LAD in the Federal RDC (data from Canada Revenue Agency).

Citizenship and Immigration Canada is seeking to transfer data files to the RDC network. Top priority is being given to the Landings File (list of all permanent residents) and the Temporary Residence File (longitudinal file that tracks the transactions). This will first involve a piolet project in the RDCs and it is premature to announce any time-lines.

A piolet project is ongoing for use of the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.

There is strong pressure to extend the relevance of the longitudinal files where field work has stopped, through data linkage that would add administrative linked information to each file.

## **6. Training**

### *Statistics and Data Series 2012-13*

The schedule and past presentations are available at the RDC web site:

<http://www.sociology.uwo.ca/>

For the seven presentations thus far, the attendance has been excellent (average of 33 persons, plus a total of 2,453 video views as of 15 March. Zenaida Ravanera is looking for suggestions and volunteers for 2013-14.

### *Brown Bag Series 2012-13*

The schedule and past presentations are available at:

<http://www.rdc.uwo.ca/>

The attendance at the two presentations has been 12 and 15 persons respectively, with a total of 169 video views as of 15 March. Given other series at Western, there may be less need for this series.

### *Summer Workshop in Longitudinal Analysis 2013.*

The web site is at: <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/summerschool/>

This site lists the courses, workshops along with the application forms and other information.

The courses offered are:

Regression Analysis of Panel Data Using Stata (May 6 - 10; 5 full days)

Event History/Survival Analysis May 6 - 17; 10 days, 3.5 hrs/day)

An Applied Introduction to Advanced Statistics (May 6 - 17; 10 days, 3.5hrs/day)

An Introduction to R and Its Applications (May 13-17 3.5 hours/day)

Two workshops are scheduled involving RDC data:

<http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/summerschool/workshops.html>

These workshops are:

Creating NPHS functional databases for longitudinal analysis using Stata (May 13-14, 1:00-4:30)

Preparing YITS data for longitudinal analysis (May 15-16, 1:00-4:30)

## 7. Impact

The following should be noted from Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN): the Networker at [www.rdc-cdr.ca](http://www.rdc-cdr.ca).

CRDCN webinar series (in collaboration with CHNET-Works).

The CRDCN Annual Conference will be at University of Waterloo, on 2-4 or 23-25 October 2013.

The following are updated 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
<b>Average monthly Adjusted dyads</b>				
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%
2012 (Jan-June)	144.9	8.5	153.4	4.9%

### UWO in total publications on CRDCN web site (updated as of 15 Aug 2013):

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	415	2.7
2011	16	376	4.3
2012	1	45	
Total	83	2349	3.5

To be updated based on [www.rdc-cdr.ca/statistics](http://www.rdc-cdr.ca/statistics)

It was noted that various metrics should be used to report on the RDC, including publications and training, research funding that would not have occurred without the facility, conference presentations, citations of papers using RDC data.

There should be publicity about the RDC at the Lawson Research day, and with SRTP students.

## 8. Report from Windsor Branch RDC (Mike Houlahan for Daniel Edelstein)

The Windsor Branch RDC has 4 work stations that are open three afternoons per week. At this time, there are 6 active projects, with one more being approved. The renewal of workstations and the purchase of a second server are under way, as is migration to the WAN (probably June).

A total of 29 sessions (on a given day by a given researcher) were spent in the RDC in 2012 (the breakdown is available by date and researcher). In 2011 there were 160 sessions, and there have already been 41 sessions in 2013.

In a graduate methods class, students were offered the option of doing their project with RDC data. None took this option but it is being introduced again this year. The RDC will have a booth at the 16 May Technology Day.

It was suggested that Students from the Western Medical School at Windsor should be informed about the potential to use the facility. Residents training at Windsor could transfer their projects from Western to Windsor.

## **9. Re-structuring the Advisory Council and succession planning**

Roderic Beaujot and Zenaida Ravanera have resigned effective 1 July 2014.

The Director and Advisory Council Members are appointments by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science. The following recommendations were made:

- The Advisory Council should include the associate deans (or their delegates) of Ivey and Schulich.
- The director need not be from the Faculty of Social Science.
- The director should be someone from Council or the user group who feels passionate about the value of the facility.
- A job description should be made available, with a call for nominees.
- Having someone named in the next 4 to 5 months would allow for mentorship.
- The October 2013 meeting of Council should include a report on succession.

## **10. Other**

Vince Gray alerted Council of the forthcoming access called RTRA (Real Time Remote Access) that is currently available only to federal government departments. The Microdata Access Division is exploring options for its use in the general academic community. A possible benefit of RTRA would be to allow researchers to check sample sizes for sub-populations before preparing an RDC proposal. However, RTRA is restricted to simple descriptive statistics and it is not oriented to complex data analysis. The costs are being negotiated, including the potential for coordination across Ontario universities. Having business data available in this way would be of strong interest to Ivey.

**11. Dates for next meetings:** 11 October 2013 and 7 March 2014, 3:00-4:30

**12. Adjournment**