Rationale for Award Projections for 2013-14

In 2012-13, the University continued to experience the impacts of budget constraints at the federal and provincial levels as governments cope with budgetary pressures in a difficult economic climate. Overall, the University has managed well within this context, with increases relative to its U15 counterparts, as evidenced by strong CRC and CFI performances. However, this continued pace is unlikely, as competition becomes fiercer over the next 18-24 months. Existing and new sources of research revenue are being actively explored through increased activity with potential partners, including the private sector. Overall, we project a modest decrease (4%) in total awards for 2013-14.

The rationale is as follows:

**Tri-Council funding (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR):**

The funding environment continues to be extremely competitive and will likely intensify over the short term in light of the federal deficit reduction plan which constrains government program spending. The modest incremental federal funding announced in federal Budget 2013 is targeted towards specific collaborative initiatives. Overall, University researchers are competing well in the full range of Tri-Council programs. Of note, SSHRC success rates are improving, including major grants. On the other hand, there has been a slight dip in CIHR success rates, and programming reductions at NSERC, will be a challenge going forward. As researchers increasingly focus on developing partners (traditional and non-traditional), including private sector and international, this will better position the University to compete in existing and new targeted initiatives.

Overall, we project a 6% reduction in Tri-Council awards. (This includes the scheduled completion of Tri-Council support for the Canadian Stroke Network, a federal Network of Centres of Excellence, in the fall of 2013.)

**Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI):**

In 2012-2013, the University finalized 16 projects with the CFI, totalling $9.2 million. In addition, the CFI awarded the University $8.7 million in research funding in support of two projects being conducted by Robert Boyd, UOttawa Canada Excellence Research Chair in Quantum Non-Linear Optics, and R. Tom Baker, Canada Research Chair in Catalysis Science for Energy Applications. The $8.7 million amount is especially impressive in that the University scored second in Ontario after the University of Toronto and secured the sixth position nation-wide. These results are indicative of the quality of individual projects and the significance of the research. Revenues for the latter awards will be received in 2014-2015; therefore, we project a small decrease for 2013/14.
Canada Research Chairs:

In the recent national allocation of Canada Research Chairs (April 2013) the University received an additional 3 chairs – bringing its total to 76. UOttawa’s performance is impressive, as it ranked 2nd among U15 universities in terms of gains. Given the time required to fill these new chairs, we project status quo for 2013-14.

Government of Canada:

Federal government spending constraints have also impacted the level of departmental funds available for research contracts. At the same time, a number of long-term government contracts at the University will be ending in the next few years. We expect to maintain status-quo for 2013-14.

Province of Ontario:

Total funding from the Province of Ontario is intrinsically linked to CFI funding because the province matches CFI funding in most cases. However, funding may lag behind more in 2013-2014 in light of the fact that the provincial government is now imposing an institutional cap. The Ontario Research Fund cap has been implemented to allow the Ministry to continue to support research, while enabling the government to achieve its fiscal targets. In general, we expect the income to be lower for the coming year. With respect to other provincial programs, the impacts of government restraint are also evident, as some have been cancelled or suspended. Projections have therefore been adjusted slightly downward for 2013-14.

Private Sector:

While the overall economic climate remains lackluster, University researchers are responding enthusiastically to new Tri-Council funding programs which offer “seed” funding for new collaborations that ultimately may set the stage for more intensive collaborative research activities with private sector firms. We expect to maintain the status quo for 2013-14.

Networks and Fourth Pillar Organizations:

“Fourth pillar” organizations are associations amongst industry, university and government organizations which promote and facilitate inter-sectoral research. These organizations are also very sensitive to the economic climate and to government funding priorities. We expect to maintain status quo for the coming year.

Medical Research Foundations and Associations:
Many disease-oriented foundations and associations have experienced budgetary restrictions because the economic downturn had negatively affected their fund-raising programs. Nonetheless, university researchers are highly competitive, therefore, we project status quo for 2013-14.

**Indirect Costs:**

Indirect Costs are generated through a variety of sources including overhead recoveries on contract research and through federal and provincial indirect cost programs. At the federal level, the most important source of indirect cost revenues, the national envelope for the Federal Indirect Costs Program remains unchanged for 2013/14. However, the base of eligible institutions continues to grow. As a result, the University’s share has decreased very minimally for 2013-14. At the provincial level, the one major program was terminated in 2012/13. Overall, we project a small decrease in this area.