SSHRC Leaders Annual Meeting
Ottawa 7 December 2017

0. It might be of interest that SSHRC recorded a podcast through the Archives Canada podcast: The importance of history in reflecting on our future.

1. Report of Ted Hewitt — President
Federal Science Review:
  Implementation is becoming clear, with the appointment of Chief Science Officer to advise PM and Minister. She will serve as a key liaison between tri-council granting agencies and government.
  Minister of Science and Minister of Health have asked for all agencies to coordinate and collaborate a Coordination Committee (CRCC) has been formed to make recommendations. Councils will make final decisions. SSHRC is working with an array of agencies.

2. Updates on Programs
Please see attached power point deck for more specific information about programmes.
- SSHRC introduced two streams within IG, Introduced Partnership Engage grants, and streamlined institutional grants. New programs seem to be initially successful.
    o Partnership Engage grants: Sept 15 received 103 applications, awards within 8 weeks. 50% success rate
    o Insight Grant: Half of applications in the smaller budget stream. There was a small increase in the number of applications. Two streams will be adjudicated separately. and the smaller stream will be engineered to have a higher success rate.
- There will be a branding change in institutional grants. New SSHRC Institutional grant streams will be: Explore (Research) and Exchange Grants (Travel). The aim is to show relation to activity related to research.
- SSHRC is reviewing aid to scholarly journals in consultation with stakeholders
- Insight Development Grant: researchers can choose adjudication committee
- Now: Looking at Talent program, which hasn't been changed in a decade.
    o One particular focus in on how to support undergraduate researchers.
    o Efforts are underway to harmonize tri-Council Talent programs
        ▪ CGS
        ▪ Paid parental leave
        ▪ extensions of award from Masters to PhD

Select Questions
International graduate students: need for additional support. Challenges include: increased pressure on universities in terms of volume of applications to vet; fixed funding envelope; increase opportunities for funding students through grants that can be used for international students

The need to revisit categories of research listed in pull-down menus — those involved in design are specifically challenged.

Undergrad research: UofT has undergraduate year long undergrad courses in which students working with researchers on their projects.

Is there a way of shortening the time of embargo announcement of award? This is a Ministerial decision/announcement. Worth lobbying.

<u>3. Research Portal</u>
Goal: Harmonization of Tri-Councils, and to develop a grants management solution for the future
- Grant Design->application submission-> Review and Assessment->Grant Award->Funding and grant activities->Grant report
- What are the needs?
  - integration of multiple systems, user friendly, efficient business operation
- Research Portal 2 will revisit CCV and reduce data entry burden
- Timeline: Target 2021
  - In process: collecting information; determining stakeholders and how to engage with them over lifecycle
  - 2018 Planning; 2018-21 Design and review with gradual implementation; Final 2021
- Stakeholders: Applicants, Reviewers, Grant officers, Scholarship Liaison officers, business officers, VPR Program Staff, Awards and Post-admin, Information Systems Staff

Open Q&A
- Budget: How can SSHRC get a bigger slice? Things are changing: more CRCs and CFREF monies. Message should be not simply that SSHRC research is valuable but also that <u>more research would be even more valuable</u>, given the nature of problems that Canada is facing.
  Concrete stories and examples: how is making a difference in ways that matter to voters
- Heads up: SSHRCs 40th anniversary in 2018
- Knowledge Synthesis grants, while simply literature surveys, are actually proving very valuable as a way of knowledge mobilization to the non-academic sector, and in particular by policy makers. This should be recognized in institutions.

<u>4. SSHRC research and innovation and skills plan</u>
A. <u>Innovation Canada</u>: How do we help firms grow? Diagnostic of system: gaps, strengths
    a. Challenges: need incentives to business investing R&D, and better R&D in universities
    b. Innovation Skills Plan (See slides for more info)
B. <u>Horizontal Review of Business Innovation and Clean Tech Programs</u> from Treasury Board secretariat. The review was data driven: programs queried (800 field); data on any firm touched for a 10 yr plan. Mapped into business registry in StatsCan. This example showcased cooperation with academics on methodology, as well as research, with knowledge synthesis grants
    The aim was a clear outreach to the academic sector to work with government in rebuilding policy capacity, with respect to collecting data and building analytical tools. Would also like to build capacity by having academics learn about policy development processes (on a 4 year cycle).
C. <u>Employment and Social Development Canada</u> Social Innovation and Social Finance strategy development mandated. Experiment in policy development — steering group convened, consultation. Strategy by June 2018
    - Items under consideration include: Skills and capacity of community organizations, and measurement of impact; barriers by laws/regulations; food

security; employment of Canadians with disabilities; mental health of refugees; FN housing
- Many existing programs: build existing ecosystems
- Provisional Mapping: 6 areas: Capacity and Skills; funding and capital; market access; policy and reg. Env; knowledge transfer, data, and impact measurement; mobilization and awareness
- Next steps:ESDC online discussion forum by end of Dec 2017

D. Interaction with SSHRC researchers
- Presentation of research results: need to be made accessible to policy makers and digestible by public more broadly
- Communicate to researchers developing policy (don't want to pay for research, but SSHRC does that)
- Build relationships: Public sector operates in a different way than academia. Shorter time frame for research. People move on, and new relationships need to be built.

In April data used in preparing slides will be available to researchers. (Distribution of business support by region)

Q&A
1. What is a good public/academic research relationship?
   a. SSHRC as liaison to find researchers
      i. Creating clusters of interested groups and academics
      ii. How: policy instrument choice? Policy practitioners annual conference
      iii. Knowledge sharing centers and networks

Superclusters: industry led; potential to build in research and evidence

5. Tri-Agency Programs
Institutional Programs: CRC, CERC, C150:
C150: 189 nominations; 26 recommended
CERC: 54 application; 11 to phase 2; diversity part of evaluation criteria

Equity/Diversity: CRC 30% women/13.4% visible minorities goal
CERC: 1/26 is a woman; 1/26 is CERC
CFREF: SSH 12 of 18 components
C150: 53% female; 25% SSH of nominees

Need for institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan

Vanier, Banting
- Criteria for leadership
- Lifted 25% cap on international Banting to enhance international mobility

6. CFI
- Success rate is comparable between science and humanities
- Interdisciplinary teams is the way forward
- Invisible infrastructure: networks, platforms, databases
- Fostering creativity

- o Discovery centre: "I think every university should have one" though will look different at different universities

Issues going forward:
- a. Sustainability: CFI spending authority has run through allotted. There is not enough in the bank to call for a new competition. Asking government for 5-10 yr spending authority at average of past expenditures
- b. New and young research fund (asking).
- c. 60/40 split with province — in negotiation
- d. Allowing for co-leaders of projects to promote diversity, mentoring, balancing talents.
- e. Best practices for environmentally sound equipment disposal policies
- f. CFI should not be tied to job creation — need to actually define the proper metrics and measures — project on evaluation and success
- g. Is there a way to promote small budget projects as well as large projects? To help new ideas grow.

7. Future Challenge Areas
The Future Challenge program focuses on building capacity, cross sector collaboration, and mobilizing knowledge.
Over the past 3 years, there have been 6 Future Challenge areas, resulting in 5 Knowledge Synthesis Grant competitions and 123 grants.

Next phase: Imagining Canada's Future 2.0. Timeline:
- Environmental scan Jan-Fall
- Research: policy issues and private sector issues
- By Dec 2018: identify future challenges
- January 2019-2021: action plan to address future challenges

8. World Café (Roundtable discussions)
Social Infrastructure
McConnell Foundation—Chad
Universities Canada —Philip Landon

Note: SFU highlighted as a model.