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## Council of Ontario Universities 288<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Held on Thursday October 15 and Friday April 16, 2009

### ACADEMIC COLLEAGUE'S REPORT TO SENATE

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As is usual the overall meeting involved an Executive Heads' Round Table, two Academic Colleagues Meetings, and the Council Meeting. The main topics that were discussed at these meetings were:

1. **Quality Assurance:** As is well-known, significant changes are under development for the quality assurance processes at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Oversight of graduate quality assurance is transitioning to the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents (OCAV) from the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS). OCAV already oversees the undergraduate component. By September 2010: i) All existing graduate and undergraduate programs will be reviewed following a model similar to the one now used by UPRAC – the Undergraduate Program Review and Audit Committee; and ii) All new graduate and undergraduate programs will be appraised following a model similar to the one now used by OCGS. The Quality Assurance Transition/Implementation Task Force produced a proposed set of guidelines that were reviewed by OCAV who decided that changes were required in the way proposed new programs and program upgrades would be dealt with. The Task Force has now been disbanded and OCAV will oversee the development of an amended document.
2. **Pensions:** Funding of university pension continues to be a problem particularly for those institutions having defined benefit plans. Seven universities in the province are facing the need to make large solvency payments that will very significantly affect their capital budgets. Regulatory changes by the government are required to deal with the problem. Merging of the various university pension plans appears to be extremely difficult. However some savings could arise from having common fund managers.
3. **Polling Results:** A poll has been undertaken on behalf of COU to try to determine how the public views the universities. Some of the outcomes were:
  - The majority of respondents thought that a university education is a good thing.
  - The respondents had concerns about university graduates being job-ready.
  - The respondents tended to downplay the impact that the universities have on the economy.
  - The respondents did not feel that research and innovation at the universities had a key role in the development of a knowledge-based economy.
  - One-third of respondents thought that the quality of a university education was improving, one-third thought it was staying about the same, and one-third thought it decreasing.
  - Although there was a general feeling that the cost of tuition was too high when the ratio of tuition to the total cost of educating a student was pointed out the number who thought that tuition costs were too high dropped considerably.
  - The respondents did not feel that the universities should be viewed as a “special case”.
4. **Climate Change Statement:** A universities climate change statement has been developed and will be released on University Day (November 26) at Queen's Park.

5. **Credit Transfer - Student Mobility and Pathways:** The provincial government continues to want enhanced student mobility and pathways at the postsecondary level in Ontario. The government wants to have a new system in place by 2012. COU is continuing to work on this problem with the government, Colleges Ontario, various student groups, and other groups who have an interest in this area. Some general principles have been agreed on.
6. **COU Strategic Plan:** COU has released its strategic plan for 2009-2010. The key priorities for the year identified in this plan are: (a) Secure a sustainable multi-year operating funding plan for Ontario's universities in the 2010 provincial budget: (b) Obtain the necessary regulatory relief for university pension plans to ensure their long-term viability: (c) Ensure systematic roll out of capital funding from Ontario's long-term capital plan for new construction and deferred maintenance projects at Ontario's universities.
7. **Academic Colleagues Working Papers:** Another in the series of Academic Colleagues Working Papers was submitted to COU. It was prepared by Marilyn Rose of Brock University and was titled *The Academic Accommodation of Graduate Students with Disabilities* and will shortly be available on the COU website.
8. **COU Issues Update:** A review of the issues that COU and the individual universities are dealing with is prepared periodically. The latest *Issues Update* is attached to this report.

Patrick H. Oosthuizen  
Principal's Academic Colleague on COU

Subject	Issue	Status
University Operating Funding	<p>This issue continues to be the number one priority for universities. During the late fall, financial market turmoil decreased the value of pension plans and endowments and in so doing, severely compounded the existing pressure on operating budgets.</p>	<p>Ontario Budget 2009 provided some much needed operating relief - \$150 million for the PSE sector, although the government allocated 55% to universities and 45% to colleges, even though the typical split has been 2/3 to 1/3. The COU has registered its concern with government about this distribution.</p> <p>Senior government officials have indicated that the 2010 Budget will be the time when a new strategy to follow the completion of the Reaching Higher- plan will be delivered. Leah Myers has been appointed by the provincial government to head the government's secretariat on this. David Trick is helping COU to develop our policy options. He has interviewed every Executive Head as a platform for this work. Public opinion research by Strategic Counsel will also inform this work.</p>
Capital Funding	<p>The Ontario government committed \$60 billion to a ten-year infrastructure plan. MTCU, with support from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure is developing a long-term capital planning process to meet the province's infrastructure needs, including those in the postsecondary sector. The Courtyard Group, a third party expert consulting firm, facilitated the exercise</p>	<p>The Courtyard Group's report concerning long term capital planning was presented to government in February 2009 and was published on MTCU's website in early September.</p> <p>MTCU staff has indicated that MTCU and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure are reviewing the report and considering next steps.</p>
Capital Funding	<p>The Knowledge Infrastructure Program is a federal initiative to renew Canada's college and university infrastructure. The program is an important element of the Government of Canada's \$12 billion Economic Action Plan, announced in the 2009 Budget, providing up to \$2 billion to support infrastructure enhancement at universities and colleges.</p>	<p>The federal and provincial governments jointly announced infrastructure funding for Ontario universities and colleges in May, 2009. Universities received \$487.9 million from the federal government and \$607.1 million from the provincial government.</p>

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Applications for 2009-10	The Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) released first year undergraduate data on applications for 2009-10 on August 6, 2009	<p>As at August 6, 85,387 applications were received from secondary school students, an increase of 1.1% from 2008. The number of applications received from first-year, non-secondary school (105) students increased to 44,629, a 1.8% increase over the same time last year. Total affirmative responses for first-year 2009 are up 363 or 0.4% from 2008. More details and regular updates can be found at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.ouac.on.ca/news/news.html">http://www.ouac.on.ca/news/news.html</a></p>
Student Mobility and Pathways	The provincial government would like student mobility and pathways enhanced at the postsecondary level.	<p>COU is continuing its consultations with MTCU and Colleges Ontario on ways to facilitate student mobility and pathways across the province. The Ministry has established a Steering Committee with representatives from COU, Colleges Ontario, CUCC and student associations to develop options for a credit transfer system for Ontario. COU representatives are Alastair Summerlee, Guelph, Patrick Deane, Queen's, Dan Lang, Toronto, and Peter Gooch, COU. The Ministry also set up a Working Group to support their work, with representatives from the same four groups noted above: COU, CO, CUCC and student associations. COU's representatives are Dan Lang and Peter Gooch. In addition, COU has established a resource group to advise the COU members of the Steering Committee and Working Group on strategies and challenges. The resource group includes Jerry Tomberlin, Carleton, Ken Lavigne, Waterloo, Ray Darling, WLU, and Sheila Embleton, York.</p>

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Quality Assurance	<p>Significant changes are under development for quality assurance processes at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Oversight of graduate quality assurance is transitioning to the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents (OCAV) from the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS). OCAV already oversees the undergraduate component (UPRAC).</p>	<p>The Quality Assurance Transition/Implementation Task Force has been meeting on a regular basis since May 2008 to develop guidelines for new graduate and undergraduate quality assurance processes. A draft Quality Assurance Framework was to OCAV for feedback in May and the Framework was re-drafted based on that feedback. A revised version was distributed to OCAV in August ( with copies to Executive Heads, graduate deans, UPRAC auditors, and Academic Colleagues), and the deadline for responses is September 15, 2009. The Task force will consider how to revise the framework based on the feedback received, and the Chair of the Task Force will attend the October 14 meeting of OCAV to discuss the feedback and next steps.</p> <p>Under the proposed Framework, undergraduate and graduate programs would be treated in same way; the Framework includes a New Program Approval Protocol, a Cyclical Program Review Protocol and an Audit process. Institutions will design and implement an Institutional Quality Assurance Process consistent with the university’s mission statement and degree-level expectations, and with the Framework. The institutional processes will be submitted to the Quality Council for review and ratification. Implementation of the new Framework is scheduled for September 2010.</p> <p>Other considerations before the Task Force include development of the terms of reference of the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (OUCQA) – the new body that will implement the Framework. The new Executive Director of Quality Assurance, Dr. Donna Woolcott, will start at COU on October 1.</p> <p>Task Force membership consists of representatives from OCAV and OCGS, along with the COU Academic Colleagues. A quality assurance expert also sits on the task force.</p>

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<p>Student Access Guarantee (SAG)</p>	<p>COU and Colleges Ontario (CO) continue to work with MTCU on issues related to the implementation of the SAG.</p>	<p>The COU Task Force on Student Financial Assistance met in January to prepare for the Ministry's anticipated consultations on the SAG guidelines for 2009-10. Four consultation meetings were held in April and May and the Ministry issued the 2009-10 Guidelines for the Student Access Guarantee on June 17<sup>th</sup>. A key consideration is the tuition/book shortfall ceiling in the calculation of unmet need. Despite urging from COU, the ceiling remained at the same level as in 2008-09.</p> <p>COU has issued an RFP for a Student Line of Credit, as required for the SAG, on behalf of several universities. The RFP was issued on September 4 to six major banks. Once the vendor has been selected, a provider agreement will be developed between the bank and the participating universities.</p> <p>In 2008, MTCU set up a committee, chaired by HEQCO, to review the effectiveness of the SAG on access. HEQCO had consulted with COU and CO and will prepare and submit a report to government sometime in 2009. COU, through CUPA members, provided demographic and enrolment data and analysis to HEQCO to help with the review. HEQCO provided a draft report to the committee for review and comment and is expected to issue a revised report shortly.</p>

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University Health Insurance Plan	Costs of UHIP	<p>At the February 2009 Winter meeting, the Council of Senior Administrative Officers (CSAO) members agreed to extend membership on the UHIP Steering Committee to include representatives from student health centers, Senior Student Affairs officers or international student advisors. The Steering Committee will submit the new terms of reference to CSAO at their fall 2009 meeting.</p> <p><u>Background Information:</u></p> <p>COU has been reviewing concerns about the cost of UHIP to international students. International students and their parents have been lobbying their universities to lower or eliminate UHIP premiums. A joint letter from COU and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) was sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, requesting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinstatement of OHIP coverage which should include all UHIP members (foreign students, faculty and staff from abroad, and their dependants).</li> <li>• A joint Executive Heads/Student meeting with the Minister to discuss the issue.</li> </ul> <p>Paul Genest met the Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Deputy Minister of MTCU to discuss various issue including UHIP.</p>
University Pension Plans	Unmanageable solvency and going concern special payments	<p>The Working Group on University Pension Plans has continued information gathering and analysis. Namely, the funded status and projected special payments of each university's pension plan will be updated from December 31, 2008 to June 30/July 1, 2009. On September 1<sup>st</sup> the Group met with representatives of two public sector pension plans – HOOPP and OMERS. The Group will convene again on September 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss progress to date and review the draft interim report. It is planned that the interim report will be delivered to the Executive Heads on October 15<sup>th</sup>. MTCU has committed \$240,000 to fund the actuarial and legal costs associated with the completion of the Working Group's mandate.</p> <p>As part of its fact finding phase, in September/October, the Working Group has plans to meet with the Commonfund, a non-profit investment manager, as well as OCUFA and other employee groups.</p> <p><u>Background Information:</u></p> <p>The Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions (OECF) has concluded its work and issued its final report on Pensions, titled <i>A Fine Balance</i> on Thursday November 20, 2008. A copy of the report can be found at <a href="http://www.pensionreview.on.ca/english/report/">http://www.pensionreview.on.ca/english/report/</a></p>

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		<p>Unfortunately, the university's main concern has not been satisfactorily addressed in the report: that is, exemption from pension solvency funding requirements for universities.</p> <p>On February 26<sup>th</sup>, COU provided comments on the report to the Minister of Finance indicating that we are in disagreement with the underlying premises for solvency funding for university, quantified the staggering special payments required (special payments of \$560M annually based on October 31, 2008 estimates), identified the devastating impact they would have on the ability of universities to fulfill their mission, reminded the MOF that Ontario's position regarding solvency exemptions is not in line with other provinces, and signaled our willingness to establish a joint working group with government to examine longer-term strategies to enhance the sustainability of university pension plans</p> <p>In December 2008, the government announced a short-term pension relief package which essentially, under certain conditions, extended the amortization period for solvency deficiencies from 5 years to 10 years, and deferred the special payments to start one year after the next required valuation date, instead of retroactive to the valuation date. Essentially, this package reduces the special payments estimated as of October 31, 2009 from \$560M to \$426.</p> <p>In absence of any meaningful pension relief, Paul Genest has written on numerous occasions to Steve Orsini, ADM, Ministry of Finance (MOF) identifying the need for short term pension relief, specifically temporary relief on all special payments as universities work towards enhancing the sustainability of their pension plans. In addition, a sub-group of CSAO as well as Allan Shapira from Hewitt Associates has met with Steve Orsini and MOF staff to discuss university pension issues.</p> <p>On February 12, Steve Orsini and Alex Mazer (MOF), met with Executive Heads and indicated that although they supported a Joint Working Group on University Pension Plans, MOF could only serve on the working group as observers and not members because of conflict of interest issues. In addition, they stated that the government was not receptive to our short-term pension relief proposal, stressing that the government had already put forward a proposed short-term relief package in December 2008 which provided some pension relief. They said that government is not open to a sector specific pension solution for universities only.</p> <p>The 2009 Budget included some enhancements and clarifications to the government's original pension relief</p>

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		<p>package which will (with some provisions) further reduce the total annual special payments based on October 31, 2008 estimates from \$560M to \$330M.</p> <p>On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Executive Heads approved the Terms of Reference and Workplan of the University Pension Plans Working Group comprised of one university President, several university Vice-Presidents of Finance, as well as pensions consultant, Allan Shapira of Hewitt Associates. MOF and MTCU representatives will participate as observers. The Working Group will proceed with information gathering and analysis and deliver an interim report to Executive Heads in October 2009.</p> <p>Per request from CSAO, COU drafted suggested key messages, as well as Questions and Answers to assist universities in responding to pension-related inquiries. The key messages and Q&amp;As were circulated to CSAO on June 10<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p>Greening of Campuses:</p> <p>Deferred Maintenance</p>	<p>Green infrastructure projects</p>	<p>COU has collected data on the proportion of deferred maintenance projects on university campuses that involve “green initiatives.” They have also calculated the job creation benefit of these types of projects. A note summarizing the results of the survey was sent to the government, which is developing a green agenda for the province.</p>
<p>Climate Change</p>	<p>University Sector Climate Change Statement</p>	<p>On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Executive Heads approved a draft made-in-Ontario Climate Change Statement submitted by CSAO.</p> <p>A communications plan to launch it was submitted and approved by Executive Heads. The Statement will be presented to the Premier/Minister of TCU at a reception at Queen’s Park on November 26<sup>th</sup> during University Day at Queen’s Park. At the same time, a report on the Greening of Ontario Universities will be released. The report is based on a comprehensive survey of green initiatives that was conducted by the Council of Senior Administrative Officers over the summer.</p> <p>The survey was developed in consultation with campus</p>

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Energy Management	Sector level projects	<p>sustainability and environmental affairs offices and captures universities' activities in 9 broad areas: policy and administration; integrating sustainability concepts into curriculum; recycling and waste management; energy management; buildings and green space; water management; transportation and fleet; purchasing and procurement; and, partnerships.</p> <p>COU is working with OAPPA on an energy-benchmarking project which is co-funded by the universities and the Ontario Power Authority. The project aims to provide data to enable implementation and monitoring of energy saving projects on campuses and facilitate information-sharing among universities and with other sectors. OAPPA presented an update on this project to OPA, MTCU, MEI, and Colleges Ontario representatives on January 14, 2009.</p>
Education Safety Association of Ontario (ESAO)	Inequitable funding model	<p>Ontario universities, along with schools boards, libraries, and colleges, are members of ESAO. In the past, Ontario universities have had serious concerns about the performance and structure of ESAO. COU recently (October 20<sup>th</sup>) submitted comments to the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) relating to the <i>Illustrative Future State Model</i> outlined in a report from the Occupational Health and Safety Council of Ontario entitled <i>Roles Review and Realignment</i> dated September 5, 2008.</p> <p>Ontario universities support the apparent direction of the proposed model that would significantly reduce the number of Health and Safety Associations (entities), create multi-stakeholder governance and enable the streamlining of administration. The latest iteration of the model seems to address the funding inequity universities faced in the previous model and should provide better services as well to institutions. COU through CSAO and CEHSO will continue to monitor this issue.</p>

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<p>Auditor-General (AG) Report</p>	<p>Response to the 2007 Auditor General report and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts recommendations</p>	<p>On May 28, 2009, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts held hearings on a section of the Auditor General’s 2007 Annual Report, Universities – Management of Facilities. On February 19, 2009, the committee notified COU that it has asked the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) to obtain data through COU on deferred maintenance spending for fiscal years 2005-06 to 2008-09.</p> <p>On June 4<sup>th</sup>, MTCU and COU met to discuss the data collection process. MTCU agreed that universities do not have to report previously collected historical data on the new template. COU used the historical data provided by MTCU to pre-populate the templates. Data has been gathered over the summer. The finalized dataset was submitted to MTCU on August 24<sup>th</sup>.</p>

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<p>New Space Management Committee</p>		<p>To respond to the AG's criticism and reinforce the need for higher level of funding commitment for facilities renewal, CSAO has recommended that a new, broad-based Space Management Committee be created. The new Committee would be cross-sectional and include representation from OCAV, CSAO, OAPPA, Registrars and senior space management specialists. The mandate of the committee would be to provide guidance on space standards, space utilization, cost of space, efficiency in space design and other issues.</p> <p>The new committee was approved at the Executive Heads meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. COU has coordinated the nomination of representatives to the new committee, obtained the nominees' agreement and submitted the proposed list to the Nominations Committee on June 12<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The new Space Management Committee (SMC) held its first meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. It was resolved that the first priority of the Committee will be the response to recommendations 7 and 8 of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts related to universities' space management practices. To gather the information required for the response, SMC and COU will develop a survey that will be circulated to institutions in late September.</p> <p>In addition, the SMC discussed the 2007-08 Inventory of Physical Facilities and the recently released MTCU/Long-Term Capital Planning Process Project Report by Courtyard Group. Committee members also agreed on a process to gather best practice information related to space management from other Canadian and international jurisdictions.</p>

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PST/GST	Cost impact on Ontario universities of GST/PST harmonization	<p>The Government of Ontario announced in the 2009 Budget it will introduce the harmonized sales tax (HST) in 2010.</p> <p>At the February 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Heads meeting, CSAO was asked to review the impact of sales tax harmonization, as currently universities are exempt from paying PST on a range of goods and services. The issue was discussed at the 2009 CSAO winter meeting. The members concluded they were not opposed to harmonization as long as it was cost neutral.</p> <p>CSAO authorized COFO to perform the analysis of the HST impact. Preliminary high-level analysis at two universities has indicated that at the current rebate level the implementation of HST will not be cost neutral. CSAO / COFO will perform a detailed analysis and work o a complete cost assessment for presentation to Executive Heads.</p>
Supply Chain Guideline	Government guidelines for university procurement	<p>COU compiled a list of purchasing groups that Ontario universities belong to and submitted the list to the BPS Secretaries in April 2009. COFO members continue to monitor the development of Supply Chain Guidelines and report on issues of significance to CSAO.</p> <p><u>Background Information:</u></p> <p>The Supply Chain Guideline has been prepared to support and improve broader public sector (BPS) supply chain activities. The Treasury Board of Cabinet has directed that the Supply Chain Guideline be incorporated into the transfer agreements of organizations in the broader public sector (BPS) receiving more than \$10 million in funding per fiscal year including organizations funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.</p> <p>At the CSAO 2009 winter meeting, Dan Wright, ADM at the BPS Secretariat at the Ministry of Finance discussed the supply chain management policies of government and the expected future regulations impacting the university sector.</p>

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Ontario Council on University Research	Draft Proposal for Industry Canada on a New Approach to Commercialization of Research and Industry Engagement in Canada	<p>Following a Federal Government Review process, Budget 2009 announced cuts in Tri-Council funding. Specifically, it signaled the termination of the Intellectual Property Mobilization Program (IPM) as of November 2009. This will have a significant impact on universities' technology transfer/industry liaison offices.</p> <p>After the announcement was made, OCUR struck a working group to draft a proposal for Industry Canada that outlined a new approach to funding industry engagement and commercialization activities. On May 21, 2009, Ted Hewitt, the Chair of OCUR, met with Executive Heads and received feedback on the draft proposal.</p> <p>OCUR has revised the proposal and it will be discussed at their meeting on September 17, 2009.</p> <p>In June 2009, the Ministry of Research and Innovation announced a new Ontario Network of Excellence, which is intended to streamline programs and services to accelerate collaboration and commercialization of research.</p> <p>OCUR has committed to working closely with the Ontario government in order to ensure open discussion and input into the development and implementation of this initiative. In particular, it is interested in participating in the development of performance metrics. OCCUR has invited officials from MRI and MARS to provide an update on their work at the September 17, 2009 meeting of OCUR.</p>
	Harmonization of Research Ethics	<p>In the past year, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care has signaled to OCUR an interest in better harmonization of ethics processes among universities in an effort to reduce barriers to research.</p> <p>This issue was discussed at the OCUR meeting in May 2009 and it was decided that a Working Group should be struck to explore the issue. In addition, the issue will be raised as part of the agenda for the Research Sub-Committee of the Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine.</p>
	Ontario Research Fund - Research Infrastructure (ORF - RI) / Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)	<p>The 2009 Ontario Budget announced \$300 million in capital funds (ORF_RI) over six years for research infrastructure, which will be available to leverage funding from CFI.</p> <p>In keeping with the process and criteria developed for the last ORF Large Infrastructure Funding applications, a new process and criteria will be developed to guide distribution of the funds announced in Budget 2009.</p>

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<p>Ontario Council on University Research (cont.)</p>	<p>Federal Granting Agencies</p>	<p>OCUR is meeting with MRI on September 17, 2009 to begin discussions on this matter and will work closely with MRI over the coming months to provide input into process and criteria development.</p> <p>OCUR will also monitor closely, work with CFI on its next call for proposals in 2010.</p> <p>OCCUR remains committed to working with the three federal granting agencies on a number of issues including funding; NSERC's new conference structure to evaluate grant applications; NSERC's new University/Industry Partnership programme; and CIHR/SSHRC funding of health-related research.</p>
	<p>Federal ADM Integration Board</p>	<p>The federal science-based departments and agencies have established an ADM committee to provide a forum for discussion and to work on areas of collective interest. They have invited OCCUR to participate in a pilot initiative with them that will seek to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Enhance the awareness and strengthen relationships between science-based departments and Ontario universities;</li> <li>2) Build a strong platform for dialogue on national challenges and science-policy integration as a first step towards full integration of the innovation system; and,</li> <li>3) Support the recruitment and skill development of future public servants.</li> </ol> <p>A first meeting of a Working Group comprised of members from OCUR and the ADM Integration Board is scheduled to be held on November 26, 2009.</p>
	<p>Research Matters</p>	<p>In order to help advance the issue of research with both the federal and provincial governments, OCUR has identified the need for a new approach to ensure effective delivery of their message. OCUR has committed to making this a priority for their work this year.</p> <p>A Working Group has been struck to develop a new framework and advocacy materials on why research matters. Work on this initiative will be ongoing throughout the year.</p>
	<p>Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CRÉPUQ)</p>	<p>As part of its outreach efforts, OCUR has signaled an interest in developing closer links with Vice-Presidents Research in Quebec. Initial discussions have been held and a joint meeting among Vice-Presidents Research from COU and CRÉPUQ is tentatively scheduled for Winter 2010.</p>

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<p>Medical School Expansion</p>	<p>The 2009 Ontario Budget announced a commitment to establish 100 new undergraduate medical school positions.</p>	<p>The government announced the 100 new positions on May 21, 2009. The government is providing operating funding at the higher funding rate as in past expansions and is providing \$35m in capital funding to support these new positions.</p> <p>The 100 new positions will be introduced at McMaster (21); NOSM (8); Ottawa (12); Toronto (35); and, Western (24) over the next three years, with 24 positions being established in 2009-10; 67 positions in 2010-11, and 9 positions in 2011-12. The positions at McMaster, Toronto and Western will be introduced at the campuses in Hamilton, Toronto and London, respectively, as well as their distributed sites.</p> <p>This increase in undergraduate medical school positions is an important part of the government's physician resource plan and builds on the two previous successful expansions of 160 new positions begun in 2000 and 104 new positions begun in 2005. This third expansion, along with the establishment of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, will increase the total number of first year spaces from 532 in 2000 to 952 in 2011.</p> <p>Queen's University was not part of this round of expansion because it required funding for a new building for the medical school. The federal and provincial governments announced at the end of May they will provide funding of nearly \$58m to support the construction of a new medical school building at Queen's as part of the recent capital infrastructure projects.</p>