

## **VP (R&I) Response to the Review of the Centre on Aging and Health University of Regina**

The Report of the unit review of the Centre on Aging and Health is strongly supportive of the continuation of the activities of the centre. It is quite clear from the committee's review that the CAH is not only meeting, but excelling, in its activities designed to advance its mandate.

The Unit Review committee provides eight recommendations.

### Aging and Health Research

1. The successful strategies used to date be continued (e.g., CAH as a supportive environment that provides seed funding and advice to those new to aging research) and new opportunities be sought. To assist in this endeavor, it is recommended that the CAH's constitution be re-visited and re-considered. It may prove beneficial to include Vision and Mission statements that address the intended scope for the CAH.

It is agreed that the Director of CAH will continue to apply current successful strategies as well as seek new opportunities. It is also agreed that in 2008-2009, the Office of the VP (R&I) and the CAH will conduct a review of the centre's constitution with a particular focus on its Vision and Mission statements and the role and composition of the Steering Committee. Revisions to the constitution will be completed no later than April 30, 2009.

2. Target new faculty recruitment with CAH involvement as a priority.

Increased efforts will be made to acquaint new faculty through the hiring and orientation processes and through the research notification processes of the Office of Research Services with opportunities presented through a research association with the CAH.

### Enhance Graduate Education

1. The Unit Review team expressed concern about some lack of clarity around the intent of the MA/MSc interdisciplinary Gerontology Program and its target audience and suggested that it may prove beneficial for those responsible for Program Governance to clarify any concerns there may exist to ensure the program is meeting developmental targets.

The CAH coordinates the program and appoints the program coordinator. However, course offerings are not under the CAH's control. The mandate of the program is to provide "research training in the area of aging and health". As such, the academic focus meets this mandate. The gerontology program was intentionally not developed to provide clinical and administrative training because the resource requirements to meet those functions could not realistically be met. Those interested in administrative training can pursue related programs in health care administration and business administration (Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and Faculty of Business Administration), while those interested in

clinical work related to gerontology can pursue relevant streams within the U of R graduate programs in Social Work and in Clinical Psychology.

### Community Outreach

1. That a regular mechanism be developed for updates in the status of research going on in the CAH.

The Director of CAH will develop a plan to improve on communication of research associated with the CAH and implement that plan within the 2008-09 fiscal year.

2. That seniors and community organisations be invited to play active roles in the CAH through involvement in the steering committee.

Two community organisations are currently represented within the CAH steering committee (Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and Saskatchewan Association on Gerontology). Revisions to the constitution (as indicated above) will allow for increased representation of community organizations.

### Financial and Administrative Support

1. That clarification of existing institutional administrative support through the Faculty of Arts be provided.

Through the Office of the VP (R&I) funds are provided annually to the Faculty of Arts to provide clerical support to the CAH. The Faculty insures that the appropriate clerical support is then available for CAH administrative activities. Additional administrative support has been requested under the centre's budget submission for 2008-2009 and is under review.

2. That additional administrative support for the CAH director in terms of dedicated administrative personnel be provided, specifically from the APT group at the U of R.

In the 2008-2009 budget submission of the CAH to the Office of the VP (R&I) a request for additional administrative personnel support has been made and is under consideration.

3. That additional office space for the CAH will be required if additional personnel is assigned to the CAH.

The need for additional space is recognized in the event that additional administrative personnel are associated with the CAH. In that event, University procedures for space requests will be processed through the University Space Committee with the support of the VP (R&I).