

**United Way York Region Meeting**

March 13, 2013  
3:00pm- 4:30pm  
80F Centurian Drive, Suite 200  
Markham, ON, L3R 8C1

Present: R. Haché, VPRI York University, M. Johnny Manager, Knowledge Mobilization, York University, J. Ryerson - City of Markham Director Culture, M. Braithwaite Pathways Children and Family Services, Executive Director, D. Zanotti United Way York Region CEO, J.Wedlock United Way Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator, R.Samson Essential Skills Ontario Researcher, P.Clifford Southlake Regional Health Centre, Director Research, H.Russell York Region Community and Health Services, B. Edwards (VPRI Office, York University)

Agenda Item	Notes
Strategic Research Plan –Draft  (slides presented by R. Haché)	<p>R.Hache made introductory remarks regarding the SRP, emphasizing areas for interaction within Plan, and emphasizing that York is open to engaging with York Region and looking for feedback on how the Plan resonates with the external community. Remarked on the SRP Advisory Committee, D. Zanotti as one of three external members on Committee having helped to shape the Plan. R. Haché presented a series of slides that provide detail on outline of the draft Plan, including the broad research themes, opportunities for the development of research, and highlighted particular references that support research collaborations with our external partners- supporting knowledge mobilization, commercialization and social entrepreneurs- the new mechanisms for coordinated interactive environment for our research with a variety of end users. Emphasized that we wish to be more actively engaged in the Region and our ambition is to grow these relationships. Highlighted interdisciplinary research as important to York, having tried to reflect the broad range of cross-disciplinary research at York within the interactive themes. Stressed the continuing commitment to the development of recognized areas of strength in research, scholarship and creative expression, while over the next five year expect to invest additional funds in several strategic areas of research development, outlined as areas of opportunity within the Plan. Informed meeting participants that VPRI will circulate a final version of the Plan once complete.</p> <p><u>Comments &amp; Clarifications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Commented that the Plan is heavy on internal structure, however engaging communities will be key to breaking down the silos and bringing people together- pleased that York is engaging with community groups.</li> <li>-Clarified that we wish to be more actively engaged in the Region and our ambition is to grow these relationships. Further through our centres and institutes we have developed new policies that will guide formation of external advisory boards important for facilitating and providing access to research and build the resource base for ORUs.</li> <li>-Commented that the SRP process itself has been successful in cutting across individual silos</li> <li>-Commented about accessibility to research/ knowledge – inquired about how is York is approaching access to knowledge</li> <li>-Clarified that movement in Canada to push for more access to research, mentioned that York boasts 30 open access journals.</li> <li>-Commented enthusiastically about the theme areas- nice balance of research highlighted. However feels the document is dense and very academic, and feels York Region is not as clear and bold as it could be within the Plan.</li> <li>-Stressed a bold mention of York Region within the document would bode well for partners who see themselves working closely with York University</li> </ul>

- Suggested highlighting the diversity of the community – which may open doors to global communities
- Suggested adding more around a collaboration model with the external community - opportunities that leverage York strengths and commenting on the collaborations that have developed (without listing projects)
- Clarified a deliberate avoidance of expressing specific partnerships due to five year timeframe of Plan, however will consider more details on a collaboration model
- Inquired about the delivery role of the Plan – suggested considering inclusion of an innovative model to bring curriculum to the community
- Clarified that our University Academic Plan at York encompasses this area
- innovation for why and for whom needs to be connected
- Inquired about what success in research means to York and how the external community may be able to help navigate success
- Clarified that success needs to be interrelated between the university and the community. M. Johnny mentioned a series of learning events that York is hosting in April “community engagement strategies”- covers various approaches across disciplines.
- Expressed enthusiasm for the *scholarship of social engagement* as a critical and unique opportunity
- Suggested considering utilizing examples of collaboration with external community – something comparable to the current York branding campaign
- Suggested York research website demonstrate the SRP research opportunities with some interactive content
- Commented that Schulich School of Business is asset for York- suggested looking at utilizing Schulich expertise to identify the business costs with the social innovation – may appeal to government
- Suggested that within the *Building Health Lives and Communities* theme there is an opportunity to speak to social determinants of health and community health. May consider York Region as a living lab concept and use as a transformative approach to health research- opportunity to speak to this concept within the document
- Commented that the *Building Health Lives and Communities* theme resonated and was well received
- Inquired about the best and most efficient avenue into the university to connect with those research faculty, administration and staff at York – finds it somewhat challenging to navigate on projects that are multi-disciplinary. Suggested a central repository/ database at York
- Clarified that the Knowledge Mobilization Unit is an important personal/responsive human contact for the external community to connect to, self-serve mechanisms/ databases aren't as effective in serving complex research needs
- Inquired about research metrics, measuring research outputs
- Clarified that most are quantitative. SRP is also an exercise in culture building on the research side
- Inquired about York's sensitivity around it's partners working together with other university partners – commented that colleges can be quite nimble and attractive to work with in some areas
- Clarified that it is beneficial for community partners to be engaged with multiple post-secondary partners, as York may not meet the needs in all areas

R. Haché expressed thanks to meeting participants for attending and for invitation to present. Would appreciate other thoughts you may have – please get in touch  
Will be completing this entire process in 6-7 weeks- will follow up and provide you with final document once finalized.