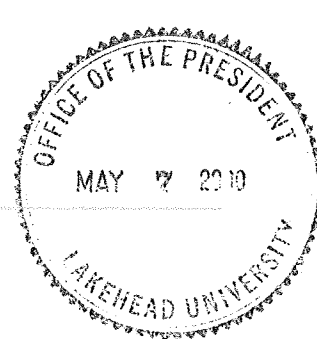


Lakehead

UNIVERSITY



April 27, 2010

Dr. Frederick Gilbert
President
Lakehead University

Dear Dr. Gilbert:

As per the Lakehead University Senate's Policy on the establishment of Research Centres and Institutes (attached), each University research centre/institute has to be reviewed for its performance over the last five years in order to determine if the centre/institute should be renewed for an additional term.

The Senate Research Committee (SRC) established an Internal Review Panel and conducted an internal review of the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH) following the procedures outlined in Section 8 of the Senate Policy. A summary of the review was then considered by the SRC. The SRC was in agreement with the Review Panel's view to renew the centre status of CERAH. I concur with the SRC's recommendation and further recommend to you to renew the centre status of CERAH for a further 5 years.

In following the Lakehead University Senate Policy, my recommendation must be forwarded to the President who will make a recommendation to Senate on the Institute's renewal. Ultimately, Senate decides on whether or not the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health will be allowed to continue operations.

For your review, enclosed please find the following documents:

- Policies and Procedures for the Establishment of Research Centres and Institutes approved by Senate February 2004
- CERAH's Annual Report
- The Internal Review Panel summary
- The SRC's written acceptance of the Internal Review Panel's recommendation

I trust that this information will aid in your decision regarding the future of Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health. If you need further information or have any questions regarding the renewal of Lakehead University Research Centres and Institutes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rui Wang".

RUI WANG, MD, PhD, FAHA
Vice-President (Research)
Lakehead University



**Lakehead University Research Centre Internal Review Panel
Summary Report – March 18, 2010**

Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH)

The Internal Review Panel for the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH) met on Tuesday February 2, 2010. The Panel received a joint presentation from past Centre directors Dr. Mary-Lou Kelley and Dr. Jane Taylor on the history and evolution of CERAH. Dr. Ian Newhouse, the Centre's present director, then offered his views on current and future aspirations of the Centre.

At the conclusion of the presentation, each Review Panel member posed a question to the speakers. The questions put forward were taken from 'Appendix A' of the 'Annual Report and Review Implementation Guidelines, Section 7 & 8 of the Policies and Procedures for the Establishment of Centres and Research Institutes.'

Through the Internal Review Panel's examination of CERAH's historical documents, the current annual report and the organization's website, the Panel was able to determine CERAH's strengths and weaknesses. The review also ascertained whether or not:

- The reasons for establishing CERAH remained compelling;
- The research, teaching and community outreach activities were well developed;
- The Centre was actively seeking and securing external research funding; and
- The Centre has aligned itself with the overall goals and objectives of the Strategic Research Plan of Lakehead University

The reasons for establishing CERAH remain compelling:

There is a need for continuing education services and research on aging and health within the community and region. CERAH has the expertise available for collaborations with other health care centres (e.g. Thunder Bay Regional Hospital, St. Joseph Care Group). The Centre is well known and continues to be influential in attracting researchers to Lakehead University. The Centre is resilient, has a varied history and continues to receive support from past directors. However, it may be noted that CERAH or its predecessor NECAH (Northern Educational Centre for Aging and Health) was not created through the Senate approval process but was created on an Adhoc basis by the then President of Lakehead University. It is also unclear whether the name change from NECAH to CERAH had received Senate approval.

The research, teaching and community outreach activities of CERAH are well developed:

The area of health research is growing and expanding at Lakehead University and CERAH is poised to take advantage of these new emerging opportunities. The Centre has an Interdisciplinary Research Committee, a Visiting Scholar program, and a Graduate Studies program. The Centre researchers continue to act as mentors resulting in positive outcomes for students. Unfortunately, when Lakehead University began academic restructuring in 2001, the

Centre lost its academic programs including the Minor in Gerontology, the Masters program as well as the undergraduate programs. All activities relating to the creation of the new PhD program in Health Research have ceased due to funding issues. The Centre's inability to continue with academic programs has been detrimental not only to CERAH, but to the University itself, resulting in the loss of students to other universities as students continue to go elsewhere to complete the PhD portion of their education.

However, the community outreach programs of the Centre are extensive and ongoing. The Centre is involved with continuing education, special events, conferences and training of those already working in the gerontology field. CERAH is a member of the Ontario Research Coalition, which is a collaboration of seven university centres undertaking research on aging and health. The Coalition provides the Centre with opportunities to apply for post-doc funding and allows the Centre to sponsor applications for Research Awards given out by the Ontario Research Coalition.

With no actual affiliation to an academic department on campus, CERAH is an isolated entity, vulnerable to the fluctuation of funding availability and susceptible to the mass exodus and loss of their core researchers and support staff if no core funding is available to keep them on staff.

The Centre is actively seeking and securing external research funding:

The Centre is continually seeking funding for their activities. SSHRC has changed its mandate as it pertains to health-related research, which both the past and present Directors noted might cause problems for the Centre in the future. There is a 50-50 split on the Centres time spent on seeking research funding and the actual research work itself. The issue of no core funding from the University for the Centre is an ongoing concern. The Centre directors felt that without some sort of core funding from the University, the Centre might not survive.

The Centre has aligned itself with the overall goals and objectives of the Strategic Research Plan (SRP) of Lakehead University:

CERAH is certainly aligned with the overall goals of The Strategic Research Plan as it relates to health across the lifespan and aboriginal health and education.

Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report:

The Annual Report of the Centre was reviewed and the Internal Review Panel instructed the Director to ensure all publications and funding grants listed in the report are the explicit result of the Centre itself or resulting from its initiative and not just those of its individual members.

Conclusion:

In accordance with its goals and mission, CERAH endeavours to undertake and facilitate research and scholarly activities in the area of aging and health. There is a lack of core funding for the Centre which puts the group of researchers and staff at risk of losing their positions within the Centre itself. The educational side of the Centre is strong and vibrant in providing practitioners with opportunities for continuing education. However, the research side remains constrained from year to year resulting in the funding dilemma the Centre faces on a regular basis, as research funds are not guaranteed.

It is with this view that the Internal Review Panel has given CERAH a rating of **GOOD** with a need to address some deficiencies in the applicable criteria and recommends that the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health continue operations but with a recommendation for improvement. Those areas that need improvement are indicated below:

- a) Need to develop a cohesive public awareness and research program aimed to seek external funding in a determined manner;
- b) Attempt to diversify its base of researchers in order to ensure a bright future;
- c) Aging and health is an area that represents many opportunities for enhanced activity which CERAH should actively pursue;
- d) Assess and prioritize areas for pursuing research.

If there are any questions with regard to this summary or the review process itself, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

The CERAH Internal Review Panel

Dr. Umed S. Panu, Chair
Dr. Ron Harpelle
Dr. William Montelpare
Dr. Jean-Yves Bernard
Dr. John O'Meara

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 1, 2010

To: Dr. Rui Wang, Vice-President (Research)

From: Dr. Peter Hollings, Chair, Senate Research Committee

Subject: **SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING CENTRE REVIEWS**

At a meeting held on Thursday, March 25, 2010, members of the Senate Research Committee passed the following motions in support of the first two Centre reviews conducted for the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH), and the Lakehead Social History Institute:

*Moved by Dr. Andrew Dean, seconded by Dr. Jean-Yves Bernard that the Senate Research Committee accept the decision of the Review Committee for the **Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH)** and recommend approval to the Vice-President (Research).*

Carried

*Moved by Dr. Andrew Dean, seconded by Dr. Jean-Yves Bernard that the Senate Research Committee accept the decision of the Review Committee for the **Lakehead Social History Institute** and recommend approval to the Vice-President (Research).*

Should you have any questions regarding the committee's decisions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

DR. PETER HOLLINGS, Chair