

Lakehead

UNIVERSITY



April 27, 1010

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 Lakehead Social History Institute (LSHI) 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 the LSHI. I concur with the SRC's recommendation and further recommend to you to renew the centre status of the LSHI 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 Lakehead Social History Institute 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
- The LSHI'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 the Lakehead Social History Institute. 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**

Lakehead Social History Institute

The Internal Review Panel for the Lakehead Social History Institute (LSHI) met on Tuesday January 26, 2010. The Panel received a presentation from the co-directors Dr. Michel Beaulieu and Ms. Beth Boegh on the history and future aspirations of the LSHI. Unfortunately, due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict, the planned presentation by Dr. Ernie Epp was cancelled.

At the conclusion of the presentation, each Review Panel member posed a question to the co-directors. 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 LSHI's historical documents, the current annual report and the organization's website, the Panel was able to determine the LSHI's strengths and weaknesses. The review also ascertained whether or not:

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

The reasons for establishing the LSHI remain compelling:

The LSHI has been in operation since 1996 and has adhered to its original mandate of focusing on community-based research in the Northwestern Ontario region. Data collection has been extensive and the Institute has an ongoing interest in creating a genealogical database available for use by both academics and the general public.

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

The mission of the LSHI is not to teach or conduct their own research but is to assist community-based researchers, authors and historians by 'managing' the projects they undertake. The LSHI acts as a mentor for authors, provides editorial reviews in an effort to improve the quality of the research publications and conducts workshops to help train researchers with an emphasis on up and coming younger researchers. The Institute is also connected to all historical societies in Northwestern Ontario and thus provides more linkages for promoting and enhancing stronger collaborations and interactions among community/university researchers.

The Institute is actively seeking and securing external research funding:

Typical academic research funding, such as that from SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR for example, is not something the LSHI currently pursues. Instead, research projects are funded solely through individual donations and corporate sponsorship. The recent formation of the Thunder Bay District Heritage Association (TDHA) in partnership with the LSHI will facilitate opportunities to apply for governmental funding which is otherwise not available to the LSHI alone.

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

Northern studies is a large part of the SRP and the LSHI's focus on Northwestern Ontario research supports the SRP's vision for the future of Lakehead University's research endeavours. A new project being pursued by the Institute will focus on the historical aspect of public health in the North.

Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report:

The LSHI directors were made aware of several misleading statements, which were included in the 2008-2009 Annual Report and were strongly advised to reword and change them. The following items were noted for revision:

1. The LSHI's original mission statement included the wording "to encourage and promote historical research in, and about, Northwestern Ontario." The current mission statement is missing the 'Northwestern Ontario' aspect. The co-directors noted that the omission was an error and the 'Northwestern Ontario' reference will be added back.
2. Under the heading "Research Activities 2008-2009," the entry regarding Elinor Barr's manuscript should be reworded to say that it is, "a work in progress" or "in the internal review process" and the co-directors agreed to this change.
3. It was stated that the Institute must ensure that the publications listed in their Annual Report are, in fact, those publications of the Centre itself and not simply a listing of LSHI member works. The co-directors agreed that transparency of publication authorship would be undertaken in the future.

Conclusion:

The true calling of the LSHI is most certainly research capacity building on a community-based level. The LSHI's association with Lakehead University has provided the Institute's community-based researchers access to trained university researchers, academics and mentors who might not otherwise be approachable. As well, through the aegis of the LSHI, university researchers and students continue to gain unfettered accessibility to the community based archival historical resources. Such a symbiotic relationship provides an excellent example of university/community collaborations. The Institute is true to its mandate in that it helps community-based researchers to collaborate and interact with researchers at Lakehead University in order to professionalize their research. The Internal Review Panel recognizes that the LSHI is indeed a valuable group and understands that it does not always conform to the expectations of peer-reviewed research and the pursuit of grants as other Lakehead University Research Centres and Institutes do. However, we appreciate that the community mandate outweighs or more than compensates for this irregularity and we understand the limitations of this Institute as it relates to research expectations.

It is with this view that the Internal Review Panel has given the LSHI an overall rating of **GOOD** but with a need to address some of the deficiencies in the applicable criteria and makes the recommendation that the Lakehead Social History Institute should be allowed to continue operations but with a strong recommendation for improvement. Those areas that need improvement are indicated below:

- a) Retrenching and reaffirming their narrow communal identity;
- b) Consider the changing of the Institutes name to incorporate the word "Research" as in 'The Lakehead Social History Research Institute';
- c) Foster a better culture of research among researchers at Lakehead University
- d) Encourage wider participation in external grant funding from SSHRC and CIHR funding agencies.

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

Sincerely,

The LSHI Internal Review Panel

Dr. Umed S. Panu, Chair
Dr. Marie-Noelle Rinne
Dr. William Montelpare
Dr. Monica Flegel
Dr. Todd Dufresne

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