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Questions:

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research, and the expansion of the Canada Research Chairs program, which has greatly benefited UWinnipeg.

Over the  
past decade  
research

The additions and renovations to the physical campus have provided many faculty with leading edge infrastructure from which to carry out and disseminate their work. Faculty have also gained the capacity to undertake more research through the bargaining process and changes to the Collective Agreement. Specifically, new faculty are provided with a reduced teaching load and the standard teaching load for faculty was reduced by three credit hours. These two measures have given faculty additional time to devote to research and other scholarly activities.

One of the measures of research success in a university setting is to assess the value of the grants obtained by faculty members. Over the past decade research funding has grown from \$2.5 million (2003/04) to just over \$7.5 million in 2013/14. This growth is based on many factors, for example: the number of Canada Research Chair (CRC) positions increasing from one to seven; Tri-Council funding (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)) increasing from \$1.1 million to just under \$2 million; Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) funding increasing from \$150,000 to nearly \$1 million; and external research revenues increasing from \$660,000 to over \$2.8 million.

The Canada Research Chair program has strengthened key research areas and also developed and supported several research clusters and programs which are consistent with the Strategic Research Plan.

For the past several years, UWinnipeg has made the list of the Top 50 Research Universities in Canada.

The federal government, and more specifically SSHRC, increasingly treats small institutions as inappropriate custodians of large grants (over \$300,000), their rationale is that the largest universities are a better investment because they have the “research-intensive” infrastructure (research office support, graduate students, critical mass of expertise in an area) to support large research projects. A danger for small universities is that they will be unable to recruit research faculty.

Success rates for the bread-and-butter SSHRC “Insight” grants (\$75,000-500,000) that fund humanities and social science faculty research have been declining, and small universities including UWinnipeg have been harder hit than large universities.

Although the dollar value amount of funding may be declining, the most recent Maclean’s rankings (2014) showed that UWinnipeg researchers are receiving SSHRC grant at a greater rate per capita (12.85 SSHRC grants per 100 full-time faculty members) than their peers at the University of Manitoba (11.90/100).

Statistics taken from the NSERC search engine indicate that in the 2009/10 fiscal year, the number and total dollar amount of Discovery Grants (individual and team) at UWinnipeg peaked at \$35,000 and \$775,000 respectively. After four years of steady declines from that point, the number and total dollar amount in 2013/14 were down to \$28,000 and \$670,000 a significant decrease.

## NOTES:

In 2007, NSERC introduced changes to the Discovery Grant evaluation procedures. There is a danger that these new procedures, coupled with the federal government's increasing focus on applied research, could make it more difficult for researchers at smaller universities with high quality but modest scale research programs to compete for Discovery Grant funds.

The UWinnipeg Research Office has a staff of four. In a comparison to similar universities (based on research revenues) the following Research Office Staff complements were noted: Lethbridge, 12 staff; University of Northern British Columbia, 10 staff; Saint Mary's, 9 staff; Moncton, 20+ staff (at two campuses); Saint Francis Xavier, 6 staff; and Acadia, 6 staff.

At these other institutions, emphasis is placed on research development that includes having grant writing support specialists and liaisons working directly with industry to connect researchers and grow research opportunities. As well, there is a focus on finding funding. The greatest growth in research activity at UWinnipeg is within external research areas and not Tri-Council funding.



and provincial governments, private foundations, and industry partners.

More recently, UWinnipeg has begun to develop several crosscutting research platforms capable of supporting and/or enhancing academic research (e.g. capacity for large data analytics, immersive technologies, video development, and production facilities).

UWinnipeg made a strategic decision to fundraise for academic and research initiatives with the development of the Future Fund. The Future Fund has a goal of raising \$15 million, which will be used to provide UWinnipeg with flexible and critical resources required to execute current academic priorities, such as academic research, academic collaboration, and innovative academic programming.