University of Manitoba  
Indirect Cost of Research

Definitions:

Indirect Costs: the central and departmental costs incurred by the University to support research that is not attributable to specific research projects.

These costs include:

1) Research Facilities: including but not limited to the renovation and maintenance of research facilities, equipment, insurance on research equipment and vehicles and associated operating costs.

2) Research Resources: including but not limited to the acquisition of library holdings, library operating costs and administration, and improved information resources.

3) Management and Administration: including but not limited to support for research proposal development, information systems to track grant applications, payroll costs connected to the support of research administration, and the promotion of research.

4) Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation: including but not limited to costs associated with boards of research ethics, animal care and biohazard compliance, technical support for animal care, and the update of facilities to meet regulatory requirements.

5) Intellectual Property: including but not limited to the sustenance of a technology transfer office, administration of industry agreements, legal fees associated with licensing, and outreach activities related to knowledge transfer.

Distribution of Funds for the Indirect Cost Program  
2011/2012 ($8.29M)

- Facilities, $3,775,258
- Research Resources, $471,446
- Management & Admin, $2,599,867
- Intellectual Property, $315,796
- Regulatory Requirements, $1,130,296
Specific Impacts

Facilities ($3.78 million):

- The establishment of the Near Eastern and Biblical Archaeology Laboratory (NEBAL) in St. Paul’s College for the study of ancient communities in the Near East and surrounding region and analyze archaeological collections from Israel and Turkey.

- The newly constructed Centre of Excellence for Regenerative Medicine to provide the basis for the stem cell research; development of new medical procedures for the regeneration of muscles, heart tissues, nerve tissues and cancer in broad range of human diseases.

- The renovations in the Faculty of Science for a biochemist researcher, Dr. Frank Schweizer’s lab with research interests in mechanisms for overcoming bacterial drug resistance.

- Numerous upgrades to research equipment in existing laboratories to enhance the facilities for researchers.

- Much needed technical support in the various research laboratories and other facilities to aid the researchers with the operations of the equipment to produce accurate and efficient data for their research.

Research Resources ($0.47 million):

- High Performance Computing (HPC) facility provides an integrated computing environment used for solving large-scale computationally demanding problems in health, natural and social sciences, engineering and business. A Linux Systems Administrator was provided to HPC to work on the high performance computers and support for research equipment.

- Continued support regarding the cost of electronic resources through the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) to be able to provide research material to UM faculty and graduate students.

Management & Administration ($2.60 million):

- The hiring of three Research Facilitators to assist researchers in identifying funding sources, reviewing submissions, facilitating the submission of large interdisciplinary team grant applications and assisting with knowledge translation, community engagement and exchange activities.

- Continuous support in Central Administration and for a new Research Review Process initiative allowing regular visits to the Faculties to ensure that research funds are spent as per the requirements of the funding agencies.

- The overall support needed at the University to accommodate the increased volume of research grants and contracts and the opportunity to increase efficiency in managing proper and timely research records both internally and externally.

- Contributed towards the growth in the number of research grant submissions of which a significant increase in successful grants has been recognized.
Regulatory Requirements & Accreditation ($1.13 million):

- Enhanced animal care and research spaces to the benefit of the health and care of our animals, our researchers, students and the quality of work that will be carried on in the affected areas.

- Lighting improvements in the T. K. Cheung Centre for Animal Science Research and in the Poultry Unit to increase dependability enhance functionality and expand effective light management abilities and meet the necessary requirements.

- The Environmental Health & Safety Office (EHSO) continues the successful implementation of the Combined Laboratory Inspection Program (CLIP) initiative which focuses on research laboratories and ensuring that they are in compliance with legislative requirement.

Intellectual Property ($0.32 million):

- The continuous support of the Technology Transfer Office which has licensed many important technologies in the agricultural, engineering and physical & life sciences fields with efficient results for our clients.

The Indirect Cost Program has contributed significantly to the attraction and retention of high-quality researchers. The ability to provide technical support, reliable high speed networking technology, upgrades to research equipment and modern & dependable infrastructures through the renovations of research spaces help to push research into new areas and new possibilities.

It has provided the University with the ability to redirect operating funds to support general research development like providing more competitive research start-up packages and establishing funding programs to seed new initiatives.

Without the Indirect Cost Program, the University will fall behind with the latest technologies, researchers would take on additional administrative responsibilities reducing their time for their research and decreasing their success rates for research funding. This would negatively affect the retention of researchers and the University's ability to attract additional sponsored research support. Also, it puts the University at risk and exposed to penalties for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

Overall, the Indirect Cost Program has enabled the University and its faculties to take a more strategic approach to the development and maintenance of its research infrastructures and support.