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
2012/2013 ($7.9M)
Specific Impacts

Facilities ($3.48 million):

- The Pathology Building Ventilation Upgrade project includes two new rooftop ventilation/cooling units with adequate capacity to provide require ventilation rates for full building occupancy, cooling capacities to offset seasonal building cooling loads and internal heat generation from equipment and people, and laboratory makeup air rates to support fume hood and other lab exhaust requirements. When fully commissioned, the Pathology Building Ventilation Upgrade Project will deliver the quality, control, and functionality that are required by modern research facilities.

- Numerous upgrades to research equipment in existing laboratories to enhance the research infrastructure for enhanced research. These include upgrades to an ultrapressure liquid chromatography system, sterilizer, nitrogen gas generator, freezers, and mass spectrophotometer at the Richardson Centre Functional Food and Nutraceuticals. The maintenances are vital for the researchers from the Faculty of Human Ecology, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, as well as researchers from other faculties, industries, and government agencies to carry on their grant funded and sponsored research.

- Much needed technical support for various research equipment, laboratories and other facilities to aid the researchers with the operations of the equipment to produce accurate and efficient data for their research. These include Engineering’s biomedical research program which has been growing and now encompasses research in several new facilities, Engineering’s Hydraulics Research and Testing Facility and Environment’s Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer Laboratory.

Research Resources ($0.48 million):

- Information Services & Technology was able to provide a Linux systems administrator to work on the high performance computer that is part of Westgrid and to provide system administrator support for research equipment housed in the High Performance Computing Centre. This ongoing position is necessary to support and enhance research.

- The Faculty of Medicine researchers’ extensive interest in personalized medicine. This capacity to compare genomic sequence data from various individuals as part of genetic screening processes has become vitally important. This involved the renewal of the Genomatix Software License in order to meet the increased interests.

- 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 ($2.14 million):

- The number of Research Facilitators (RFs) has increased from three to five. They 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. The University is aiming for a total of six Research Facilitators adding one more under the health sector. Faculties have been successful at securing several large collaborative contracts and research grants due to the efforts of RFs and staff in the Office of Research Services.

- 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 ($1.32 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.

- The construction of the Individually Ventilated Cage (IVC) racking system for the animal care space in our Basic Medical Sciences Building. This new housing configuration includes holding cages mounted on a direct duct connection that individually exhausts the cage odours and contaminants directly at each source. Odours and contaminants are no longer allowed to escape and be mixed with room air.

- 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 ($0.48 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. They manage over one-hundred technology-based alliances with local and global partners.

- The salary costs of hiring and maintaining an employee to fill the position of Legal Counsel. This position has improved the University’s ability to effectively and expediently manage and administer the research enterprise, in consultation with the TTO regarding licensing agreements, incorporation of “start-up companies” in order to commercialize University inventions.

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 and dependable infrastructure 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 potentially expose it 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.