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
2013/2014 ($7.6M)
Specific Impacts

Facilities ($3.19 million):

- Numerous upgrades to research equipment in existing laboratories to enhance the research infrastructure for enhanced research. Replacement of all T12 fluorescent lamps in the controlled environment facilities of Plant Science Building as well as the lighting upgrades of the Research Chambers in the Faculties of Agricultural and Food Sciences. Lighting systems were transformed from 1950s technology to present day proven, energy efficient technologies.

- For the Faculty of Dentistry, service contracts on several centrifuges (RC5C and RC6 Sorvall Centrifuges), Perking Scintillation Counter, Beckman Spectrophotometer were covered by ICP funding. Without these expenditures the equipment would inevitably have more frequent breakdowns and these repairs would have caused delays in research. Further diverting funds from other resources to cover these expenses would have resulted in reduced funds for critical and essential purchases of materials for research and funding of HQPs in their laboratories.

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. For the Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources, ongoing technical support and laboratory management for the Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer Laboratory and it allows to conduct materials research as well as in the emerging area of biomineralization.

- 305/307 Allen Building built in the early 1960s was renovated with ICR funding in the Faculty of Science. This funding enabled to support research in anno-magnetism, which is widely regarded internationally.

Research Resources ($0.66 million):

- The Faculty of Arts has purchased Atlas Qualitative Data Analysis software for graphics, textual, audio and visual formats, which had provided the capacity for collaborative research. An Educational Multi-User License for 10 users was purchased as well as a 6-hour online course that users will be taking in the summer in 2014. Acquiring this program is an important step for helping the Faculty achieving their research on the women’s and gender studies being more efficient, ethical and productive.

- 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 Libraries’ collection is enhanced through electronic resources purchased through COPPUL (Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries) and CRKN. COPPUL is one of the inter-institutional consortia that UM Libraries is involved with. Canadian Research Knowledge Network is another partnership that UM Libraries participates in, which is dedicated to expanding digital content for academic research purposes in Canada.

- ICP funding assistance to the Asper School is to provide Finance and Accounting data sets/databases that are standard at research-based business schools at a cost of approximately $120,000 per year and computer support staff resources.
Management & Administration ($2.21 million):

- Five Research Facilitators (RFs) 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. 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 Research Funds Review Process initiative allowing regular visits to the Faculties to ensure that research funds are spent in compliance with 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.

- All research projects involving human conducted at, or under the auspices of the University of Manitoba requires prior ethics review and approval by Research ethics Board (REB). The 5 REB chairs, the Research Quality Management team, and the Associate VP Research has been improving communication between REBs and members of the Research Community through regular meeting.

Regulatory Requirements & Accreditation ($1.11 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 ABSL-2 Autoclave in the Chown Building Central Animal Care facilities is replaced since the autoclave in the Chown facility was over 30 years old and beyond normal life expectancy.

- 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 ($0.46 million):

- Technology transfer Office (TTO) is made up of a group of industry professionals that provide a wide range of intellectual property services to the University community and the people of Manitoba. These include protection and licensing of intellectual property created by researchers at the University of Manitoba.

- 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 exposes 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 and also allowed us to address a substantial number of meaningful improvements.