



uOttawa

Université d'Ottawa
Cabinet de la vice-rectrice
à la recherche

University of Ottawa
Office of the Vice-President,
Research

September 5, 2012

To: U15 Vice-Presidents, Research

Subject: Towards stronger ties with German universities in the areas of
Neurosciences, Energy and Sustainability, and Social Sciences and
Humanities

Dear Colleagues,

As you may be aware, the Presidents of U15 universities met with their counterparts in Berlin last March (see list attached), as well as with senior representatives of German funding agencies. The outcome of these meetings was a strong agreement to develop further collaboration between universities in both countries.

Following the meetings, a Steering Committee was created that includes three U15 Presidents and three German counterparts. Together, they identified and assigned three priority areas for collaboration as follows:

1. Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel, Universität Göttingen and Dr. Stephen Toope, University of British Columbia: Neurosciences
2. Dr. Ernst Schmachtenberger, RWTH Aachen and Dr. Indira Samarasekera, University of Alberta: Energy and Sustainability
3. Dr. Gerhard Sagerer, Universität Bielefeld and Mr. Allan Rock, University of Ottawa: Social Sciences and Humanities (e.g. Citizenship, Governance, and Democracy)

I am writing to you on behalf of the Steering Committee to explore the interest of your researchers in the three thematic areas where we wish to establish broader collaboration between U15 universities and participating German universities.

The Steering Committee would like to invite researchers to express interest in developing new, or deepening existing ties, with one or more of the 20 German universities. Being at the exploratory stage, suggestions for more specific subject matters under the three areas are also welcome.

Mr. François Carrier, Director of the Office of International Research at the University of Ottawa, has been mandated to coordinate this initiative at the University of Ottawa. He will take a lead role under the third thematic area of Social Sciences and Humanities, and collect and provide information about University of Ottawa researchers interested in the other two areas. His contact information is oir@uottawa.ca and (613) 562-5397.

The immediate first step is to focus on identifying faculty members at your university who would be interested in these bi-national research collaborations, and to explore their potential contribution to scaled-up research initiatives under one of these research areas. Thematic workshops could be held later this fall or in the first half of 2013, where academic themes and priorities will be clarified, action plans developed, and appropriate funding options for research cooperation and graduate scholarships explored in detail.

I would ask that **your institution identify by September 19th a contact person who will be responsible for collecting information from your institution.** Contact persons will receive from Mr. Carrier more details about the initiative, its proposed process to collect information and timeline. From a procedural point of view, the idea is to keep the initiative as transparent, uniform and open as possible at this crucial early stage.

Finally, I suggest that our itinerary for the visit we are planning to Germany later this year be organized so as to support these initiatives and to focus on the three subject areas that have been selected.

Thank you in advance for your collaboration,



Mona Nemer, C.Q., Ph.D., FRSC
Professor and Vice-President, Research

CC: Allan Rock, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Ottawa
François Carrier, Director, Office of International Research, University of Ottawa

Encl.: List of participating German Universities

Presidents of German Universities / U-20

1. Aachen	Herr Prof. Ernst M. Schmachtenberger / Rektor RWTH Aachen
2. FU Berlin	Herr Prof. Dr. Peter-André Alt / Präsident Freie Universität Berlin
3. HU Berlin	Herr Prof. Dr. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz / Präsident Humboldt- Universität Berlin
4. Bielefeld	Herr Prof. Dr. Gerhard Sagerer / Rektor Universität Bielefeld
5. Bochum	Herr Prof. Dr. Nils Metzler-Nolte / Prorektor fuer Wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchs und Internationales, Universität Bochum
6. Bonn	Herr Prof. Dr. Jürgen Fohrmann / Rektor Universität Bonn (Platz 11)
7. Bremen	Herr Prof. Dr. Wilfried Müller / Präsident Universität Bremen Frau Prof. Dr. Carmelita Görg / Associate Vice President for Intl. Relations (USA/Kanada) Universität Bremen
8. Dresden	Herr Prof. Dr. Hans Müller-Steinhagen / Rektor Technische Universität Dresden
9. Frankfurt/Main	Herr Prof. Dr. Werner Müller-Esterl / Rektor Goethe -Universität Frankfurt
10. Freiburg	Herr Prof. Dr. Jürgen Rühle / Prorektor Universität Freiburg
11. Göttingen	Frau Prof. Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel / Präsidentin Universität Göttingen
12. Heidelberg	Herr Prof. Dr. Thomas Pfeiffer / Prorektor Internationale Beziehungen Universität Heidelberg
13. Karlsruhe	Herr Prof. Dr. Horst Hippler / Präsident Karlsruher Institut für Technologie
14. Köln	Herr Prof. Dr. Axel Freimuth / Rektor Universität Köln
15. Konstanz	Herr Prof. Dr. Ulrich Rüdiger / Rektor Universität Konstanz
16. Mainz	Herr Prof. Dr. Georg Krausch / Präsident Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz
17. LMU München	Herr Prof. Dr. Bernd Huber / Präsident LMU
18. TU München	Frau Prof. Liqiu Meng Senior Vice President Intl. Affairs / TU München
19. Tübingen	Herr Prof. Dr. Heinz-Dieter Assmann / Prorektor Internationales Universität Tübingen
20. Würzburg	Herr Prof. Dr. Alfred Forchel / Präsident Universität Würzburg

- Gelb markiert sind die im DFG-Förderatlas 2012 unter den Top 10 besten aufgelisteten Universitäten auf dem Gebiet der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften.