

NDRIO

New Digital
Research Infrastructure
Organization

NOIRN

Nouvelle organisation
d'infrastructure de
recherche numérique

NDRIO Researcher Council Governance Model Consultation Deck

July 2020



Context

NDRIO Governance

- The New Digital Research Infrastructure Organization (NDRIO) is a not-for-profit organization governed by an independent Board of Directors. NDRIO is membership-based, and the roles and rights of Members are critical elements of its overall governance.
- Membership is not required to access the programs of NDRIO and its programs will be made available to eligible researchers and research institutions across Canada. However, the new organization's governance will rest and draw upon its committed membership. There are two types of members of NDRIO:
 - **Primary Members (Voting)** include post-secondary institutions and research hospitals and their affiliated institutes that conduct research and are eligible for Tri-Council grants. In addition to voting privileges at Annual General Meetings, Primary Members can nominate candidates to the Researcher Council.
 - **Associate Members** are organizations that have significant activities in the any of the three NDRIO domains including: advanced research computing (ARC), data management (DM) and research software (RS). Associate Members can attend annual meetings but do not have voting privileges.
- The concept of the Researcher Council was recognized as an important component of the governance of NDRIO and is included in its by-laws.

NDRIO Governance Consultations

- NDRIO's governance consultations in Fall 2019 provided critical initial feedback on the Researcher Council. The inaugural NDRIO Board has tasked the Researcher Advisory Group to make recommendations on the best way to constitute the Researcher Council as a priority activity. Key findings from the Fall 2019 consultations include:
 - The Researcher Council is essential to establish a culture of service to and engagement with researchers.
 - Members of the Researcher Council are to be nominated by Primary (Voting) Members with overall membership approved by the Board.
 - The NDRIO Board is to ensure the Council is multi-disciplinary and may appoint Researcher Council members as required to fulfill this requirement.
 - The Researcher Council is to guide the researcher needs assessment.

Researcher Advisory Group

- In June 2020, the interim Researcher Advisory Group (RAG) was set up to develop the governance model for a permanent Researcher Council. The Researcher Advisory Group will identify the process to assess and recommend nominees for the Researcher Council, for approval by the Board of Directors. The RAG will also initiate the researcher needs assessment to make recommendations to NDRIO on the digital research infrastructure needs of researchers.

Role of the Researcher Council

The key role of the Researcher Council is to represent the diversity of the Canadian research enterprise and make recommendations to the Board and NDRIO management on researcher needs for DRI infrastructure and services.

To that end, the Council will:

- Ensure that a diversity of researcher voices is represented to the NDRIO Board. Provide strategic advice to the Board on researcher needs.
- Work with NDRIO management at the operational level to develop a researcher needs assessment to ensure that researcher priority needs inform strategic plans, activities and work planning. The researcher needs assessment will not only indicate researcher needs, but also provide the current and future context and foresight for those identified needs.
- Develop processes to engage researchers across disciplines to identify, synthesize and validate current and future priorities. Identification of needs includes prioritization of those needs in situations of limited resources.
- Establish a culture of service to and engagement with researchers.

Considerations/Questions

1. Are we missing any roles or responsibilities that the Researcher Council should be undertaking?
2. How can the Researcher Council ensure that the diversity of the Canadian researcher enterprise is represented?
3. Do you have any suggestions on how to make the Researcher Council more effective in its mission?
4. Is the Researcher Council relationship with the NDRIO Board and management sufficiently clear?

Governance and Operations of Council

- The Council is to elect its own Chair and Vice-Chair from within its membership.
- The Researcher Council Chair will sit on the NDRIO Board as an observer to ensure strong linkages with the Board.
- The Researcher Council will be supported by the NDRIO management team.
- The Researcher Council will work with and be supported by expert and working groups of technical staff and experts to help translate the researcher needs into programs, services and infrastructure. The Researcher Council can make recommendations on the types of expertise required that can be drawn from NDRIO staff, membership and stakeholders.
- Council members will have staggered terms of up to 3 years to ensure continuity.
- The Council will adopt a consensus approach to synthesizing researcher needs for the needs assessment.

Considerations/Questions

1. Are the suggested supports for the Researcher Council sufficient to ensure that the Researcher Council can fulfill its role and mandate?
2. Is 3 years the right length of term for Researcher Council members?

Composition, Size and Nomination Process for Researcher Council

- The Council will be composed of 15-20 people.
- The Council will represent the diversity of the national research enterprise including: research discipline; institution; geographic and linguistic diversity; and diversity between established and emerging researchers.
- NDRIO is committed to the principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Policies and practices to deliver EDI outcomes are required, and will be put in place.
- Researcher Council members are to have experience in advanced research computing, research software and/or data management domains.
- Researcher Council membership candidates are to be nominated by Primary Members and through an open call. Nominations will be assessed through the Researcher Advisory Group for recommendation to the Board. The selection process will be transparent.

- Recruitment will take place through an open posting process and targeted outreach to member institutions, organizations and researchers.

Considerations/Questions

1. Is a Researcher Council of 15-20 members appropriate?
2. Is there a preferred process for recruitment of potential Researcher Council members?
3. What is the best way to ensure diversity of the researcher voice in the identification of researcher needs?
4. In your experience, what has worked to ensure successful EDI outcomes? Do you have examples that we can learn from?

Timelines and Processes to Establish Researcher Council

The objective is to have the Researcher Council in place by NDRIO's September Annual General Meeting. To that end:

- The consultation process on Researcher Council Governance Model is to be complete by July 10, 2020.
- Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback via email at NDRIO-NOIRN@EngageDRI.ca as well as through the webinars on July 7 (EN) and July 9 (FR).
- The final model will be based on stakeholder feedback, and communicated to Members and the community.
- Researcher Council application forms will be posted to the NDRIO website the week of July 27. We will proactively communicate the nomination process with Members and the community.
- Nominations and applications for the Researcher Council are due in early August.
- Nominations and applications will be assessed through the Researcher Advisory Group, and recommendations advanced to the NDRIO Board.
- The Board will make final decisions on Researcher Council candidates in August.