What's New at NSERC?

Summary

1. Implementation of recommendations from
   - International Review of DGP
   - GSC Structure Review
2. CREATE
3. Other questions?

International Review of DGP - Recommendations

R1: An applicant's previous Discovery Grant should not be the starting point for a new grant.

- ✓ GSCs should rate proposals by merit without reference to prior grants or requested budget
- ✓ Assign proposals to "bins" based on merit … then
- ✓ Allocate funds with reference to cost of research and need for funds
- ☑ Separately rate and fund proposals for "early career" researchers
- Review selection criteria to include potential of research to be "transformational" and better define the "need for funds" criterion

International Review of DGP - Recommendations

R2: Double the number of Discovery Accelerator Supplements to 200 per year, but fund out of new money

R3: Revise the Grant Selection Committee structure

- ✓ Cut the number of GSCs about in half – details to be advised by "Sedra" committee
- ☑ Roughly double the proportion of non-resident GSC members (to about 15%)
- ☑ Ensure that every proposal is reviewed by at least one reviewer from outside Canada

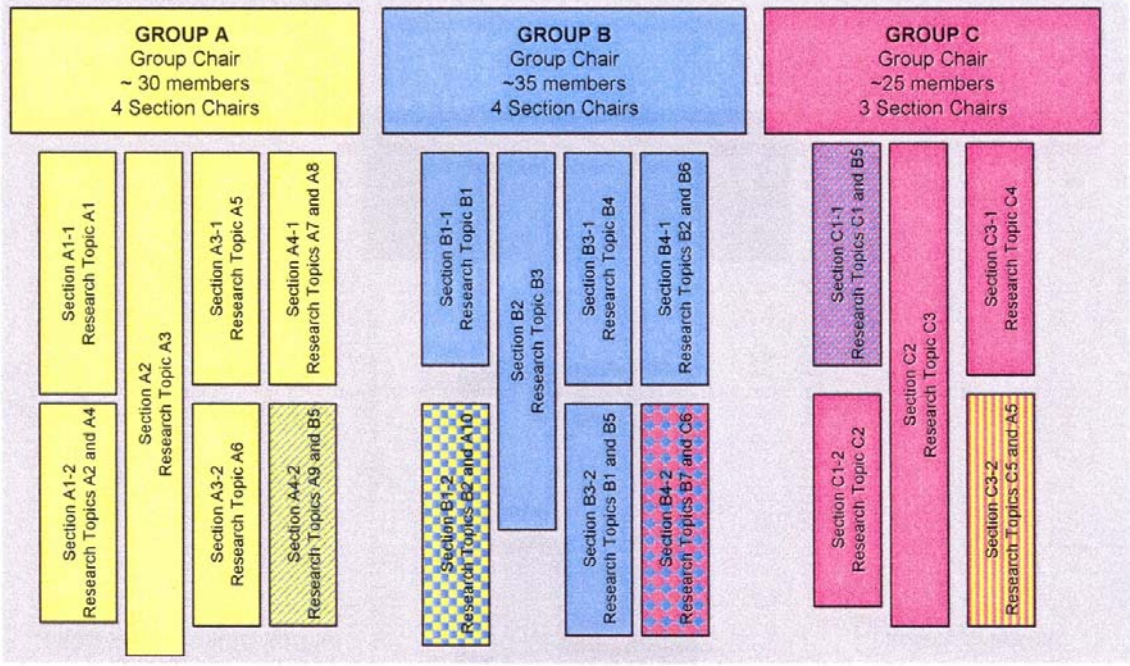
International Review of DGP - Recommendations

R4: Increase support for training highly-qualified personnel

- Strengthen Canada's ability to attract PDFs from abroad (endorse NSERC's proposed CREATE program)
- Develop ways to encourage Canadian PDFs abroad to return to Canada

R5: Increase funding for DGP to ensure that the value of its grants keeps pace with the growing opportunity

Conference Model



Geosciences Group & Sections

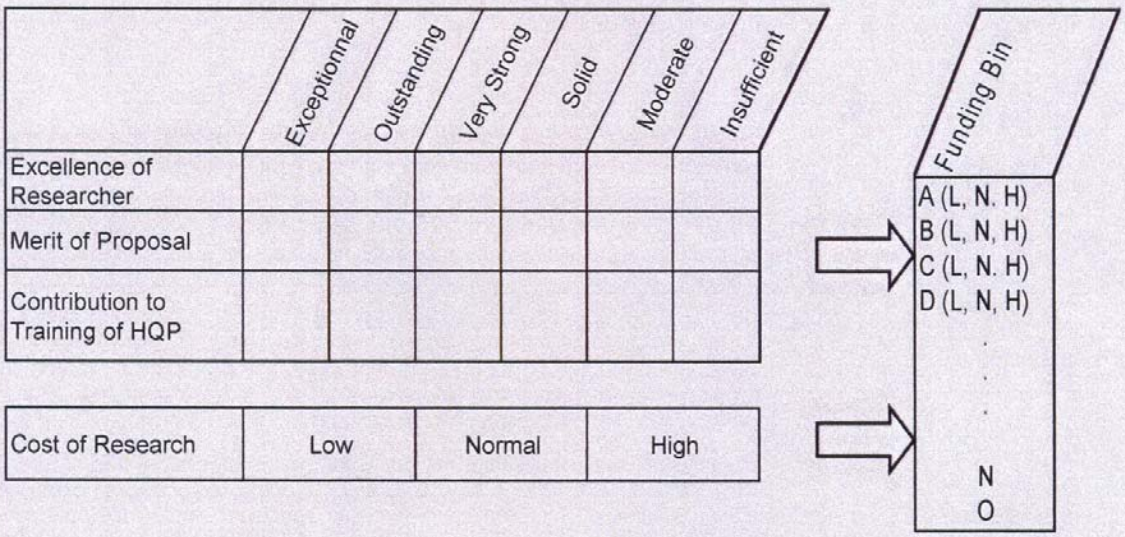
- Petrology & Mineralogy
- Sedimentology & Stratigraphy
- Paleontology & Paleobiology
- Geophysics
- Economic Geology
- Tectonics & Structural Geology
- Geochemistry & Geochronology
- Volcanology
- Planetary Sciences
- Surface Processes
- Peloe-environmental Sciences
- Biogeosciences
- Global Geological Processes
- Atmospheric Sciences
- Hydrology
- Oceanography
- Soil Sciences
- Geomatics & Earth Systems Observations
- Cryology

Merit Assessment

Binning of applications:

- Sections (sub-panels) to assess the quality of proposals in terms of a numeric grade according to each of the following criteria:
  - scientific or engineering excellence of the researcher(s);
  - merit of the proposal;
  - contribution to the training of highly qualified personnel
- And:
  - the relative cost of the proposed program of research (low, medium or high) for the topic area
- The ratings on these will lead to a classification of applications into quality categories or bins, qualified by a "Cost of Research" factor

Merit Assessment & Funding Recommendations



CREATE (Collaborative Research And Training Experience)

Support the training of teams of outstanding students and PDF through innovative training programs that

- encourage collaborative and integrative approaches, and address significant scientific challenges; and
- facilitate the transition of new researchers from trainees to productive employees in the Canadian workforce.

Encourage one or more of the following

- acquisition and development of important professional skills (complement their qualifications and technical skills);
- student mobility; and
- interdisciplinary research

CREATE

Eligibility

- Teams – the majority of the group must be from NSE fields
- Focus on new training initiatives
- An institution can be lead on a maximum of four applications per competition.

Funding

- 6 years (year 1 @ up to $150K, years 2-6 @ up to $300K)
- Minimum of 80% of funds spent on stipends to HQP
  - Up to 30% of which may be for students not enrolled in NSE fields

CREATE

Selection Criteria

1. Merit of the proposed training program (40%)
2. Excellence of researchers (40%)
3. Program management and long-term sustainability (20%)

Application process

1. Notification of Intent
   - in the future, the LOI may be used to triage applications
2. (Invited) Full Applications
   - 3 reports from referees

CREATE Applications – 2009 Competition
Earth & Environmental Sciences

Climate, climate change, modelling, adaptation	4 applications
Earth & Environmental Sciences	1 application
Oceans, rivers, ground water	4 applications
Remote sensing, sensing technologies, geodetic technologies	4 applications