



Office of the Chair and Graduate Chair

DPES 2010-18 Departmental Review of NSERC Applications

From: William A. Gough, Chair and Graduate Chair, DPES

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DPES has no formal policy on the review of research grant applications, although, of course, the Chair must formally sign off on all proposals from department PIs. The UTSC Vice-Principal Research has asked that we give some thought to this. In the past there has been some scrutiny of applications usually by research mentors and others the applicant has personally contacted. I have discussed this with the DPES Associate Chair Research (Frank Wania). We would like to initiate a discussion of this by proposing the following two points:

1. A formalized departmental review of NSERC Discovery grant applications is required for new applicants. This process will be coordinated by the Associate Chair Research (ACR). Applicants are encouraged to have their research mentor and others review the application prior to departmental submission. Applicants are encouraged to have their Form 180 reviewed by the ACR.
2. For renewals of NSERC Discovery grants, a formalized departmental review will occur only by request of the applicant. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek others in their field to review their application prior to departmental submission. Applicants are encouraged to have their Form 180 reviewed by the ACR.

Note that we are focusing on the critically important NSERC Discovery grants. There are other NSERC grants of interest as well as other tri-Council grants such as SSHRC or CIHR that faculty may apply to. The same general principles should apply to these as well.

The underlying motivation to this proposed policy is to provide the appropriate guidance to new faculty members as they navigate through the application process for the first time but to fall short of excessive paternalism in the renewal process, except to provide support if requested.

Comments on this within the next week would be most appreciated. Formal adoption of a policy will occur at a departmental meeting, likely in September.