University Delegates WebEx Meeting  
June 4, 2015 – 12:30-1:30pm EDT  
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario

Participants

Chair: Jennifer O’Donoughue, Executive Director, Reforms Implementation

Members: Deborah Anderson, University of Saskatchewan  
Nicole Baillet (for Ranjana Bird), University of Northern British Columbia  
Christian Baron, Université de Montréal  
Shari Baum, McGill University  
Robert Bertolo, Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Lara Boyd, University of British Columbia  
Tanya Brann-Barrett (for Dale Keefe), Cape Breton University  
Lori Burrows, McMaster University  
Michael Buschmann, Ecole Polytechnique Montréal  
Dean Care, Brandon University  
Peter Cattini, University of Manitoba  
Daniel Cyr, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)  
Faith Donald, Ryerson University  
Réjean Dubuc, Université du Québec à Montréal  
Bareket Falk, Brock University  
Denise Figlewicz, University of Western Ontario  
John Fisher, Queen’s University  
Norbert Haunerland, Simon Fraser University  
Michael Hayes, University of Victoria  
Marilyn Hodgins, University of New Brunswick  
Richard Leduc, Université de Sherbrooke  
Julian Little, University of Ottawa  
Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University  
Cindi Morshede, University of Toronto  
Christian Patenaude (for Lionel Berthoux), Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières  
Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Marc Pouliot, Université Laval  
David Rose, University of Waterloo  
Chris Shields, Acadia University  
Otis Vacratsis, University of Windsor  
Elaine Wiersma, Lakehead University  
Gerald Zamponi, University of Calgary

Institution staff: Penny D’Agnone, University of Lethbridge  
André Manseau, Université du Québec en Outaouais  
Jean-Philippe Marquis, Université Laval  
Barry Ries, York University

Regrets: Lionel Berthoux, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières  
Ranjana Bird, University of Northern British Columbia  
Lesley Brown, University of Lethbridge  
Janet Bryanton, University of Prince Edward Island  
Estelle Chamoux, Bishop’s University  
Mark Filiaiaggi, Dalhousie University  
Karen Grant, Mount Allison University  
Shawn Hayley, Carleton University  
Richard Isnor, St. Francis Xavier University  
Shanthi Johnson, University of Regina  
Dale Keefe, Cape Breton University  
Joseph Lam, University of Guelph  
Rod McCormick, Thompson Rivers University  
Michael Owen, University of Ontario Institute of Technology  
Lauren Sergio, York University  
Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University  
Peter Twohig, Saint Mary’s University  
Richard Wozniak, University of Alberta  
Nancy Young, Laurentian University
The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. EDT and welcomed the University Delegates (UDs) to the WebEx meeting.

1. Foundation Scheme Update

Members were provided with an update on the 2014 Foundation Scheme live pilot competition.

Stage 2 Results
- 467 invited to Stage 2 and 445 applications were received.
- Reviewed by 222 reviewers.
- Each reviewer was assigned 10 applications, on average.
- Approximately 90% of applications reviewed by 5 reviewers.

Stage 3 Results
- 189 invited to the final assessment stage

Budget Review Process
CIHR committed to funding 120-250 grants in the first Foundation pilot competition and 450-600 grants in the Transitional OOGP competition with a shared budget envelope of $500M. CIHR has been working under the assumption that there will not be across the board cuts to budgets for the Foundation pilot. CIHR also committed to ensuring that a minimum annual intake of new investigators (15%) will be established in the Foundation Scheme.

A budget committee has been established to review budget submissions that are complex and/or have a strong rationale for an increase over the identified baseline amount.

During the last few days, many questions have arisen concerning how the applicants moving forward to the Final Assessment Stage were selected. Applicants were selected to move forward to the Final Assessment Stage if they:
- Received a minimum consolidated ranking above the 65th percentile; or
- Received at least 3 rankings above the 70th percentile; or
- Received at least 2 rankings above the 70th percentile AND a minimum consolidated ranking above the 56th percentile.

New/early career investigators were selected to move forward to the Final Assessment Stage if they:
- Received a minimum consolidated ranking above the 50th percentile; or
- Received at least 2 rankings above the 70th percentile AND a minimum consolidated ranking above the 40th percentile.
All applicants were informed of their decisions at the end of May. Applicants moving to the Final Assessment Stage will be provided with their baseline amounts and instructions on how to complete next steps. This information was also communicated to research administrators, and during a VPR call that took place in early June.

Questions from UDs:
- **There have been concerns about the virtual review process and the large discrepancies across the 5 reviews. Is there any plan to monitor the process more closely for the second pilot?** The distribution of applications at Stage 2 looked very similar to the distribution of applications at Stage 1 and the standard deviation is not higher than what was expected. Results will be monitored and a detailed analysis of reviewer comments and survey results will be conducted. This topic can be discussed at the June 18 face-to-face meeting.

- **Members requested clarification on the baseline amounts and the 2% inflationary amount.** Applicants will be provided with a template to complete to allow them to adjust their requested amount, if they choose. They will be required to provide a justification to support any request that is above the baseline amount. An across the board inflationary amount will then be applied to each budget. Complex cases and requests for a significant increase above the baseline amount will be reviewed by the budget committee.

- **Is CIHR still committing to fund 120 grants despite increased budget requests?** This competition is shared with the Transitional OOGP, which is still in the competition process. A final number cannot be communicated until the end of the competition processes. However, CIHR is still expecting to fund at a minimum 120 Foundation grants as identified throughout the process.

- **How many grants are in the grey zone?** As this competition is still in the review process, information on distribution of green zone and grey zone applications is not being shared at this stage.

- **Have any applications that are not in the grey zone been randomly selected for discussion at the face-to-face meeting, for piloting purposes?** No applications were selected for this competition, however this may occur in the future.

- **Are most of the Stage 3 applicants from ‘research intensive’ universities?** Detailed statistics on the final results will be released after the competition is finished and the analysis is complete.

- **Is 15% of the budget for the first Foundation pilot set aside for new investigators?** Yes. CIHR has committed to awarding at least 15% of the funded grants to new/early career investigators.

- **For the second pilot, will CIHR provide a CIHR baseline budget right at the start (for Stage 2), rather than after the fact?** CIHR is looking at ways to improve the budget process and this topic can be discussed at the face-to-face meeting.

- **Will you be providing a graphic of the score distribution as you did after Stage 1?** This information is not being shared at this stage.

More questions and answers are available on the [CIHR website](http://cihr-icr.gc.ca/).

**2. University Delegates Face-to-Face Meeting:**

Members were reminded that the face-to-face meeting will be held on June 18, 2015. The preliminary survey results of the 2014 Foundation pilot will be sent out to members in order to review design elements. Members were asked to please use discretion with the information they
are receiving as this material is not to be distributed. Members can send any questions to the UD mailbox.

**Adjournment**  
The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, and adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m. EDT.