

Principles Governing Membership of Council's Standing Committees

Joint Committee on Grants and Scholarships

The Joint Committee on Grants and Scholarships recommends to the Vice-President, Research Grants and Scholarships, program allocations and transfers between program elements; recommends to the Vice-President, Research Grants and Scholarships methods to be used for selection committee allocations; provides advice on and monitors programs referred to it by Council; and advises Council on policy issues and possible mechanisms regarding support of the research base in science and engineering in Canadian universities and the provision of highly qualified research personnel in those same areas in Canada.

Appointments

The members of the Committee on Grants and Scholarships are appointed by the Corporate Secretary to Council on the recommendation of the Vice-President of the Research Grants and Scholarships Directorate.

Composition *

The Committee is chaired by a member of Council and composed of both Council and non-Council members. The Committee should be representative of the R & D community it serves and its make-up should include:

- active researchers from the university sector;
- researchers and/or research managers from the private and public sectors;
- at least one individual from the young researcher category, including graduate students and postdoctoral fellows;
- at least one Dean of Graduate Studies;
- a minimum of two francophones.

In addition the Committee should reflect the gender balance of the NSE research community and include a minimum of two women and two men.

Other factors have to be taken into consideration during the appointment process. For instance, some members must have prior selection committee experience. The Committee must also have a reasonable regional balance.

The members of the Committee must possess several qualities:

- knowledge and understanding of Canadian university-based research
- knowledge and understanding regarding training and development of highly qualified personnel and with issues concerning the demand and supply of such personnel
- demonstrated capacity to exercise good judgment
- breadth and depth of understanding and knowledge in their own field and beyond
- willingness to voluntarily devote time and effort to the well-being of R&D in Canada

Some members of the Committee are appointed group chairs and are assigned specific responsibility for a number of Selection Committees. One of the principal roles of group chairs is to monitor the quality of peer review in the Selection Committees (SCs) under their responsibility and to interact with the SCs, as necessary, when the latter meet during the grants and scholarships competition. In this capacity, group chairs act as a constructive critic, advise SCs on NSERC policies and procedures, and represent the opinions and concerns of the SCs under their purview to the Joint Committee on Grants and Scholarships. Group chairs may also participate in the discussion concerning the membership of the SCs and the selection of the SC Chair, in consultation with staff. The number of group chairs may vary from year to year, depending on the needs of various disciplines and on the background and expertise of the individuals chosen as group chairs.

Duration of Term

Council members are appointed for the duration of their current term on Council. Group Chairs are normally appointed for three-year terms. Other members are normally appointed for four-year terms. An appropriate rotation system is established to ensure a dynamic membership.

* The President and Vice-President of Council are ex-officio members of all standing committees.