



Natural Sciences and Engineering  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences  
naturelles et en génie du Canada

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File: N3052-S4

May 7, 2009

Nancy Reid  
Department of Statistics  
University of Toronto  
SIDNEY SMITH HALL  
100 SAINT GEORGE ST  
TORONTO ON M5S 3G3

Dear Nancy,

I am writing to you and the Liaison Committee to bring you up-to-date on the Group placement for the Statistical Sciences in the new conference model which is in the process of being implemented in the Discovery Grants Program.

The Statistical Sciences represents one of the main areas that would benefit from a full implementation of the conference model. Following a detailed evaluation, NSERC considers that combining Mathematics and Statistical Sciences under one Group is the most appropriate scientific choice in the new conference model. Part of the rationale for this lies in the fact that the majority of interactions would reside within this Group. The two communities together provide for a critical mass of applications that will allow flexibility in expertise coverage. Also, both communities are part of the mathematical sciences at large which brings about some coherence between the two. We expect to have two streams in mathematics and one in statistical sciences. It is likely that interactions or joint reviews may occur in some areas, i.e., probability. I have attached a copy of the Math/Stats Group as Appendix A for your information.

We recognize that this may not have been the exact outcome that the Liaison Committee had anticipated, however, NSERC is of the opinion that many of the concerns highlighted in your letter are being addressed. Overall we considered this Group to be the most suitable combination given the overall structure that has been decided upon for the Discovery Grants program.

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We want to re-emphasize, therefore, that NSERC does not consider Statistical Sciences to be a sub-discipline of Mathematics and that it will continue to be considered as a discipline on equal footing with the other disciplines in the new conference model.

We strongly believe that this Group will bring together the appropriate mix of experts from the two scientific communities to ensure the best possible evaluation of applications, thus ensuring continued excellence of the peer review process.

We look forward to and appreciate your on-going support as we move towards full implementation of the new structure.

Sincerely,



Pierre Duchesne  
Team Leader  
Chemistry, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences

Cc: Serge Villemure, Director, Chemistry, Engineering and Mathematical  
Sciences  
Judie Foster, Program Officer, Statistical Sciences GSC