

December 2016

**Interim Vice-President, Research - Report to Senate #645**

Fall term generally brings a flood of applications for external research funding, and 2016 has been no exception. Faculty members have been very busy writing and submitting grant applications this year! NSERC applications include 25 for Discovery Grants, 5 for Research Tools and Instruments and one for a Northern Research Supplement. The total funding requested from NSERC is close to \$8.4M. Five applications have been submitted to CIHR for a total request of nearly \$1.8M, and there are 26 SSHRC applications this fall (25 Insight Grants and 1 Connection Grant), totaling nearly \$4M. Three applications were submitted to the Canada Foundation for Innovation, including one to the Innovation Fund program and two to the John R. Evans Leaders Fund, for a total of \$1.27M. There were also applications to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Alzheimer Society of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, the National Institutes of Health (USA), the National Science Foundation (USA) and several foundations. I congratulate all the faculty members who submitted applications this year and commend them on their efforts!

I also want to acknowledge many faculty members who helped facilitate the application process. NSERC now requires each institution to review applications to the Research Tools and Instruments Program internally and submit its quota to the larger competition. Five faculty members from different departments assisted in this process this year. In addition, several applicants for NSERC Discovery grants sought peer feedback on their applications, and I am aware of 16 different faculty members who helped 6 of their Brock colleagues by reading and commenting on their research proposals. I helped set up the peer feedback process for four applicants, and in 3 of these cases “mock reviews” were conducted, allowing peer “reviewers” to meet with the applicants and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the application. In each case the applicants and “peer reviewers” learned a great deal from the process, and all expressed great satisfaction. I recommend that faculty members initiate and participate in peer feedback on grant applications whenever possible. Efforts like this help promote and solidify the research culture at Brock, and I am very confident that grant applicants will see improved success as a result.