June 24, 2013

TO: Associate Deans (Research)

FROM: Dr. Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International)

RE: NSERC RESEARCH TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS (RTI) GRANTS PROGRAM – UPDATE ON PROGRAM CHANGES AND NEW INTERNAL APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW

Under the revised RTI program, the University of Manitoba will have a quota of 12 applications for the October 2013 competition. The internal deadline for submission of applications to be considered as part of the University's quota for this competition shall be August 15th.

As you know, NSERC has recently conducted an extensive consultation on the RTI program and has introduced a quota system to limit the number of applications an institution may submit to this competition. The quota is based on the number of NSERC-funded researchers in the natural sciences and engineering at the institution.

To ensure the University maximizes the opportunity to submit its full quota of applications to this competition, the following internal review process has been established:

- Complete applications including all required quotations and Personal Data Forms (Form 100s) from applicants and co-applicants must be submitted to the Office of Research Services by no later than August 15th.

- Applications received by the internal deadline date will be reviewed by a committee composed of the Associate Deans (Research) in the natural sciences and engineering faculties at the University of Manitoba who will rank the applications according to the program’s selection criteria.

- The top 12 ranked applications will be selected to proceed with their full application. Applicants will be informed by the Office of Research Services by no later than September 13th whether their application will be approved to proceed as part of the University’s quota for this competition. Feedback will be provided to applicants from this process for their use in revising the application or for reference in considering future applications to this program.

- Applicants will work with the Office of Research Services and the NSE Research Facilitators to finalize their application for the October 25th NSERC RTI deadline.

- Matching support for RTI applications may be available from the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International) in partnership with Faculties/units at the University. Applicants may include confirmation of cash contributions from their Faculty/unit along with their submission for the August 15th deadline for consideration of matching funds support from the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International).

It is important to note that the RTI program has not otherwise been majorly changed. The program will continue to provide one-year awards up to $150,000 to support the purchase or development of research equipment with a total net cost between $7,001 and $250,000. Researchers can be on more than one RTI application. The criteria for evaluation and the NSERC process of evaluation of these applications will also remain the same.

However, please be aware that NSERC will only accept applications for equipment that is purchased after the application deadline.

Please distribute this memo to researchers within your units as appropriate. Questions on the above process and changes to the RTI program may be directed to the Office of Research Services.

cc: Dr. James Blatz
    Dr. Gary Giavin
    Ms. Barbara Crutchley
    Ms. Nancy Klos

www.umanitoba.ca/research/