

Report on NSERC Meeting

Madeleine Bastien and Patricia Rouillard of NSERC gave an information session on the results of the 2011 competition on Tuesday afternoon before the banquet.

The Mathematics and Statistics Evaluation Group (1508) consists of 3 sections, on statistics, math, and applied math. After the assignment of applicants to bins, the executive committee (section chairs and NSERC staff) met to assign award amounts to the bins. They noticed a substantial difference between the ratings given by the groups, which they attributed to poor calibration. Statistics had the lowest ratings, math noticeably higher. They decided to split the budget so that similar ratings in statistics got awards similar to last year, but in math the amounts awarded were lower. Various strategies for addressing this are being studied.

It was pointed out that the adjustments did not address the fact that only applicants to the math sections were awarded the three highest categories.

The success rates were reported; they were somewhat higher in math than in stats.

Respectfully submitted by Duncan Murdoch