Committee for Limited Submissions in the Sciences and Engineering (ComLSSE)

Many grant-making organizations, including government agencies and private foundations, limit the number of applications any one eligible institution may submit to particular funding programs. The number of UCSD investigators who wish to submit applications to these limited-submission programs often exceeds the number of applications-per-university permitted by the sponsor. For limited-submission funding opportunities in the natural sciences and engineering, except those that are relevant primarily to investigators in the Health Sciences, ComLSSE is the campus committee charged with evaluating the full set of internal applications to determine which will go forward to the soliciting entity. Some important things to know about ComLSSE:

• The Committee is composed entirely of senior faculty representing a wide range of disciplinary expertise in the natural sciences and engineering. For more information about the composition of the Committee, see: http://limitedsubmission.ucsd.edu/faculty-committees.

• The Committee's overarching goal is to maximize the number of limited-submission awards that come to our campus.

• Accordingly, the Committee's core purpose is to choose those internal applications that are likely to be most competitive during external review, at the level of the sponsor.

• The Committee's process begins with the careful and independent reading and evaluation of each internal application by each member.

• The Committee considers each application's responsiveness to the program's goals and guidelines, including merit review criteria, if stated, as well as adherence to the campus application instructions.

• The Committee's determinations are made following extensive discussion in face-to-face meetings or teleconferences, not by simply collecting application rankings via e-mail.

• The Committee's process benefits greatly from the extensive experience with, and up-to-date insight about, each sponsor — including what may be known about the sponsor’s past preferences and current emphases — offered by the UCSD Office of Research Affairs and by Corporate and Foundation Relations.

• While ComLSSE members are chosen to provide diverse disciplinary expertise, they are instructed that they are not intended to serve as advocates or representatives for applicants in their respective areas.

• Each campus applicant, whether or not her/his proposal was chosen to go forward, is provided with written feedback from the Committee.

• The Committee is not charged with generating, and cannot provide, a detailed review of each proposal, such as one might receive from a federal granting agency.