



ECB/QVR Steering Committee Minutes

Date: Wed., November 2, 2005, 10:00 a.m.–noon
Location: Fernwood Bldg., Room 3D-18
Chair: Thor Fjellstedt
Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. - noon, Fernwood 3D-18

Action Items

1. Ensure that the SBIR/STTR ranking order of applications with a percentile is consistent with existing policy.

Links

1. All Extramural page
2. QVR Website

All Extramural (including contracts, IAGs taps, etc) - Prototype demonstration

Thor briefly demonstrated Don Tiedemann's All Extramural screen on QVR, which is comprised of data pulled from data warehouse. Users will be able to search and download contracts, records and other data items from each IC, all of which will soon be available on this page. The idea behind it is to have one data source from which the User can pull all extramural obligations. This will contain all awarded grants from 2001 to the present. In the near future, they will also have access to some budget-specific reports as well as frozen data.

One problem that the group expressed with these contracts is the numbering system. Some group members requested that the numbering system become equivalent to other NIH grants. Another issue is the use of year suffixes to identify contract modifications.

End-of-year closeout-- Status of Frozen File for FY 2005

Frozen files are now available, though non-dollar changes may occur on a case-by-case basis. For example, some missing trainees data will be added to the frozen files while Dollar data, will remain frozen. There were some discrepancies between eRA and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) data where 134 transactions were affected. These were corrected before they were frozen. The group agreed that having frozen files is desperately important to the system in regards to the accuracy of the end of year reports. Multiple group members reported a good amount of positive feedback on the end-of-year closeout awards.

Multiple-PIs

There should be flexibility within the system in case that number changes because of retirement or any other kind of PI movement. There will be a Principal PI, who will act as a contact to the other PIs on the project. Multi-PI related information will be displayed in QVR.

SBIR-STTR--Rank Order of Applications without a Percentile

Within a group that represents Program Administrators and Program management staff, the interest in Rank Order Applications is unanimous. The problem here is that SBIRs are reviewed in around 100 different study sections. Based on priority score alone, there is not enough information to understand what is going on. The ranking process has been, up until this point, a manual process of pulling information from QVR and then scoring and ranking items in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. This should be an automatic process available for the program staff, as it would show where these applications actually exist. It would be beneficial to lump all small business applications as one ranking, within one council round review committee. SBIR and STTR should be listed as one group.

This would allow users to compare the ranking of SBIRs relative to all of the applications within a given study section. This would not need to be a searchable field or on something on a hit list, but rather a downloadable item such as an Excel spreadsheet. Once this tool is developed in QVR, it will most likely be an application that other groups will be interested in, as it can apply to many different applications.

The only potential policy hang-up results from an NIH edict, which states that the use of percentile ranking as a funding indicator is forbidden, unless it goes on the Summary Statement. Since this would be an entirely internal process, it might not cause a problem. This is doable, but the group agreed to check on the policy before implementing this ability into the system.

Action: Ensure that the SBIR/STTR ranking order of applications with a percentile is consistent with existing policy.

Conversion to SF 424 (R&R) from the PHS 398

The SF 424 (R&R) applications will start to come in on November 7, 2005. All of these applications will be from SBIR. QVR should be able to facilitate supporting the extraction of preliminary abstracts and personnel. All of this information should exist within one document, which the QVR team will parse out easily.

The project description will now exist as two portions, a scientific field and a field devoted to the Health Significance. The group stated that it is important to download these two sections both separately as well as part of the Summary Statement.

The old 398 form will be attached to this new electronic SF 424 (R&R) application, so they will continue to deal with those. The new data field containing the appendices to these forms should be available and viewable by the Scientific Review Administrator (SRA).

Status 70 Standard Report

Applications processed through the Receipt and Referral module are, for the large part, quickly assigned to an IRG and subsequently to a scientific review committee. However, there are some applications that are delayed in this processing for a variety of reasons. The new Status 70 report should be useful in identifying unassigned applications.

Access to JIT data

After getting past some initial security issues, Steve Hughes, Don and Cathy continue working on a tool that will access Just-In-Time data in QVR.

Summary Statement—reoccurring/new problems

IMPAC II provides an Application Program Interface (API) for obtaining Summary Statements, but this proves to be a relatively slow way of retrieving summary statements. However, from time to time the some summary statements are generated in such a way that they cannot be retrieved using QVR. The QVR team is working on a solution to this problem. It is likely that the current process will continue to be used for most retrievals. The summary statements that are not retrievable using the current procedure will be retrieved through the API. The QVR team is currently looking for better ways of doing this and will communicate and coordinate with eRA to find a better, more efficient process. Anyone with a problem getting Summary Statements should contact both the eRA helpdesk and the QVR team.

IC Codes Project

There are currently seven institutes involved with this project. These ICs will meet in January, but the QVR team is interested in other ICs that would be interested in QVR IC Codes functionality.

NIH Roadmap Update -- new initiatives for 2006

There will be many new items within Roadmap in the coming year. For instance, X01 applications, which are mechanisms without money, will be received in 2006. One fundamental problem that has occurred is that some 2005 Roadmap initiatives actually used a 2004 RFA designator (RM04-xxx). Another complexity in regard to reporting and analysis of Roadmap is that in some cases initiatives for 2004 had a few projects funded in FY 2005. In this circumstance it is difficult to attribute these projects to the proper fiscal year when evaluating the effectiveness of the initiative.

Items put into Production since the last meeting - Feedback?

- End-of-year Report

ECB/QVR and Related Training Classes:

Introduction to the QVR System

730 November 3, Thursday, 1:00PM to 4:00PM, Natcher Conference Center (Bldg. 45), Balcony B

Intermediate QVR Training

733 November 7, Monday, 9:00AM to noon, Fernwood Bldg., Lower Level Classroom

Advanced QVR Training

734 December 8, Thursday, 1:00PM - 4:00PM, Fernwood Bldg., Lower Level Classroom

Introduction to Using the ECB Council Administration Module

731 November 2, Wednesday, 9:00AM to 1:00PM, Fernwood Bldg., Lower Level Classroom

ECB Early Concurrence Workshop

732 November 3, Thursday, 9:00AM to 1:00PM, Fernwood Bldg., Lower Level Classroom

Understanding the Grants Process

729 November 8, Tuesday, 9 AM to noon, Natcher Conference Center (Bldg. 45), Balcony B

The notes for all of these classes, and all pertinent slideshows, exist on the QVR website. Additional classes will be added soon.

Other Issues

- There should be a list showing PIs that have Commons accounts. This will soon be made into a downloadable item.
- Thor asked if the tutorial emails are too big (1 megabyte). The group agreed that he should simply send a link to the website where these tutorials are stored.
- Everything that was rolled out in 2005 will be posted on the QVR website and each item linked to its corresponding tutorial.

Attendees

Bashir, Karen (NIA)	Buckley, Cathy (CIT)	Connors, Anne (NIAMS)
Fischetti, Greg (NCI)	Fjellstedt, Thor (CIT)	Geddes, Lorena (NIGMS)
Goodland, Rayseen (NCRR)	Hanlon, Mary (NIDDK)	Hodgkins, Earl (CIT)
Ikeda, Rick (NIGMS)	Mchale, Carolyn (CIT)	Mohseu, Ilze (NCCAM)
Paugh, Steve (OD/LTS)	Pinchotti, Steve (NIMH/ ALTUM)	Preusch, Peter (NIGMS)
Rich, Linda (NCCAM)	Tiedemann, Don (CIT)	Wong, JoAnne (NIMH)