
Brief Information about the Long Range Planning Exercise

NSERC has asked the mathematics and statistics community to prepare a long range plan: presentations about this were given by NSERC at the recent summer meetings of the societies. NSERC has also prepared draft terms of reference: from that document

"At the request of NSERC, the Canadian mathematics and statistics communities will engage in a long range planning exercise over the next 15-18 months. A long-range plan (LRP) will allow the communities to identify areas of strength and establish a unified vision of priorities and directions for mathematics and statistics research in Canada. It will be used to inform NSERC and the Mathematics & Statistics Evaluation Group of the community's priorities for current and emerging areas, thereby allowing for the best use of resources to advance the work of the community as a whole. "

The goal is to complete the long range plan by January 2012.

The first step is to establish a Long Range Plan Steering Committee to oversee the process. The Chair of this committee is Nancy Reid, University of Toronto, and the membership of the committee will include two Institute Directors, two applied mathematicians, two statisticians, and two pure mathematicians. The mathematics and statistics liaison committee has been engaged with NSERC on the choice of the chair and a format for membership, and will continue to aid the chair in the establishment of the committee. The committee should be established by the end of July, 2010, with work to start shortly thereafter.

There will be many opportunities for all members of the relevant communities to provide input to the plan, through meetings, web pages, email contact, and so on. One of the steering committee's first tasks will be to set out a consultation strategy.

Among the NSERC scientific communities, two, sub-atomic physics and astronomy and astrophysics, have been preparing such long range plans for some time. Their plans are available at <http://www.ap.smu.ca/~butler/lrp/> (sub-atomic physics) and <http://www.casca.ca/lrp/front-back/en-index.html> (astronomy).