

PPAC Dec 08 Summary

PPAC Dec 08 Meeting

- Report on the Second PPAC (Policy and Planning Advisory Committee)
- Focus of this meeting was to consider the **process** in which TRIUMF resource priorities are set, documented, transmitted to the users and staff
- The lab is becoming more and more diverse, so resource division becomes a more cross-discipline question
- How to effectively include community input
- **What is the Process followed for new projects with significant resource allocation implications**

PPAC Charge Summary

- Identify the existing primary documents that should be considered when formulating priorities (*e.g.*, NSERC SAP long-range plan, TRIUMF Five-Year Plan report, and so on) and their relative importance.
- As a national resource for the scientific community, TRIUMF provides specialized services, skills, and expertise. How should the deployment of these resources be determined on a medium-term basis? When new medium-size opportunities become available, what criteria and what process can be used to determine the appropriate level of TRIUMF involvement? Should there be additional standing committees like the EECs or additional *ad hoc* review committees?
- Comment on procedures for previewing proposals (*e.g.*, GRIFFIN, UCN) to external funding agencies (such as NSERC, CFI, CIHR) that would draw on TRIUMF resources if funded. Should considerations about the finite nature of TRIUMF resources be incorporated; if so, how?
- Propose and discuss mechanisms for keeping these priorities up-to-date and in alignment with the community's objectives. Should there be a regular review, perhaps conducted by PPAC?

Meeting process

- We heard 3 detailed talks on current TRIUMF planning which were extremely useful, as well as a forward look at a possible structure to address the committee charge by Byron Jennings
- We also had very informative discussions with several of the lab management with extensive experience and knowledge of the lab's history
- We have used Byron's talk with the straw-man proposal as a starting point

Planning Inputs

- TRIUMF FYP (5 years)
- NRC contribution agreement (5 years)
- TRIUMF budget (1-5 years)
- Community planning (NSERC LRP (also considered for 5YP)) (5-10 years)
- Peer review funding decisions (1-5 years)
 - CFI ??

National agreements with NSERC

- Science Experiments/projects can only be supported at TRIUMF if they succeed in a peer review funding process.
- For external experiments(SAP), NSERC and TRIUMF work under the ad-hoc process instituted in 1997 (The Astbury-Sinervo process)
- **Recommend we keep these agreements**

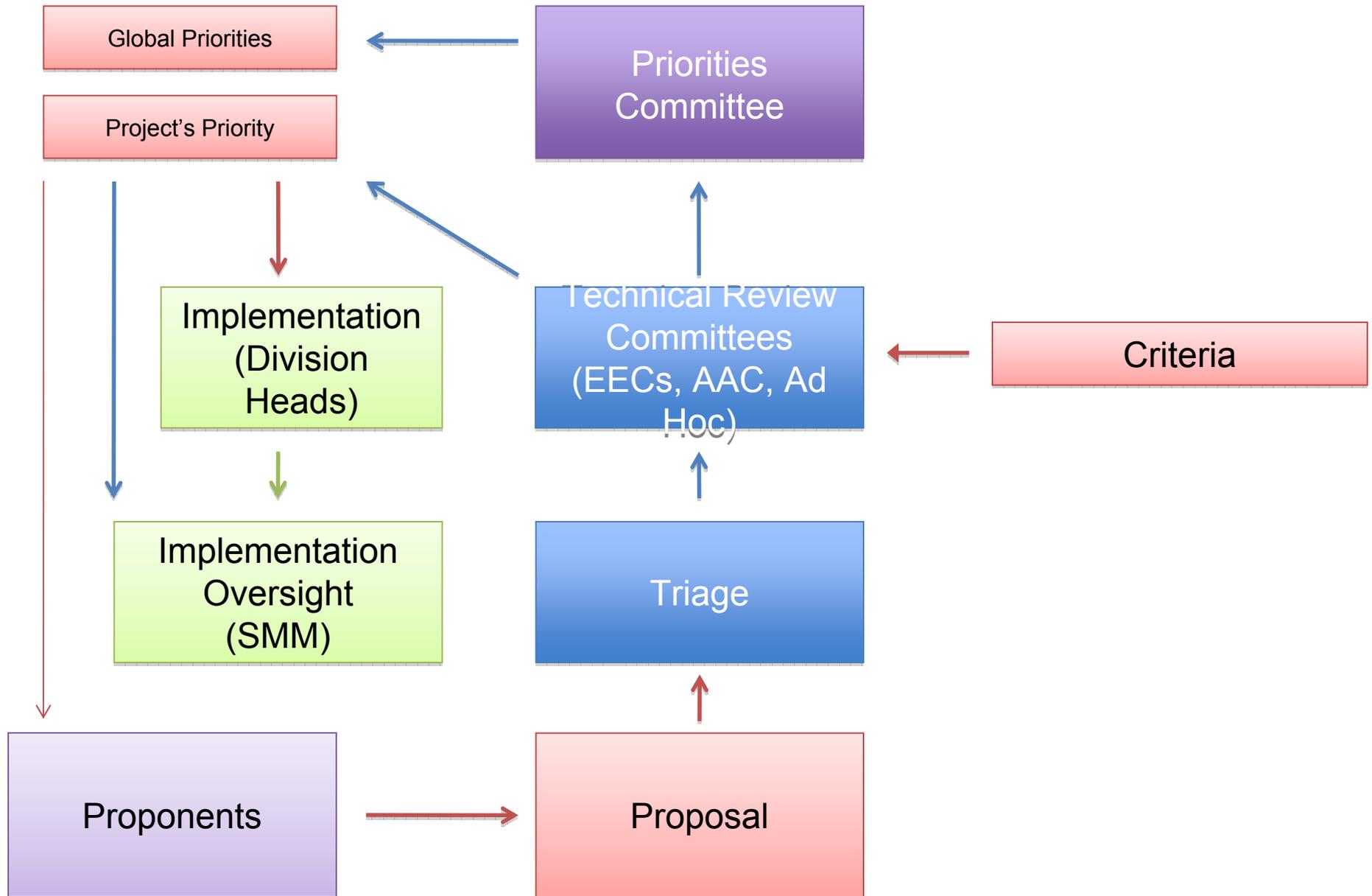
Priority Generation Considerations

- PPAC feels that the expertise for detailed priority allocation resides within TRIUMF Senior Management, and so the ultimate decisions on resources should be made by the director with advice from the Priorities Committee with input from PPAC
- Process
 - Fair
 - Represent all TRIUMF constituencies
 - Deals with projects of many different sizes
 - **Transparent**
 - **Strong University Input**
 - Strong User Input

PPAC recommendation

- At appropriate time (perhaps after informal consultation with TRIUMF about possibility of support) each proposal for resources submits a written Proposal (details of content follows)
- The proposals are sent to the Triage stage, and sent along the appropriate path. We feel that TRIUMF management is best qualified to perform this task.
 - Disposition of all proposals is made public
- For straightforward tasks, we recommend keeping the existing structures of EECs, AAC, etc
- **PPAC can contribute for large and medium scale**

Routine ISAC, μ SR, or β NMR Experiments



PPAC role

- Recommend a twice-yearly review of new requests. Given the potential size and impact of such requests, we feel that twice per year is not too infrequent for such decisions
- Information 3 weeks in advance – PPAC has phone meeting, chance to request additional information
- PPAC provides written, public recommendation to PC
- Further consultation with PPAC if necessary (e.g. significant consequences arise not originally considered by PPAC)
 - E.g. If additional information about what programs will be affected by a new program would have changed PPACs recommendation

PPAC role

- At these meetings, we recommend the changes effected over the past 6 months be reviewed

Inputs to PPAC

- Detailed lab resource summary
 - Projected resources (including type) vs time, across the lab, for current and future commitments
- Proposal from each project + presentation by proponents
- Informal assessment of impact on lab program
 - We worry that evaluating a change to the program will entail trade-offs with existing efforts, and knowing what might have to be given up/delayed/descoped can change our recommendation
 - What conflicts exist
 - Impact on present and future resources and projects
- As required: Input from internal review committees

Proposal Content

- Overlap with Canadian research community, benefits to society, international collab., overlap with lab core competencies
- For offsite projects: status of project (approved/funded in host country, technical status)
- R&D: future implications
- Resources: People/type of people infrastructure timelines for all, cash required, leverage available
- Schedule
- Science case

Criteria

- Importance of the Science
- Alignment with TRIUMF's Global Priorities
- Will the Experiment Work?
 - Technical Feasibility
 - Proponents' Technical Competence and Commitment
- Funding Considerations
 - External Peer Review funding
 - Necessary but not Sufficient
 - Leveraging/Sharing
- Canadian and TRIUMF Impact and Visibility
- Alignment with Community Priorities (IPP, CINP, Community Plan)
- Government Priorities

Priorities Committee

- Receives same input as PPAC as well as the PPAC recommendation for the new projects
- Meets twice per year, just after the PPAC meeting
- Outcome of meeting documented in written, public report

Membership of Priorities Committee

- Director (Ex Officio)

Priorities Committee (advisory to Director)

- Associate Director (chair)
- Division heads
- Chair of PPAC

Interaction at Large Proj. Day

- Keep Sinervo-Astbury model for SAP.
- PC generates list of available resources without prioritization
- Not clear the same mechanism can be applied to other fields, eg beta-NMR, in which the lab resources are not so tied to a particular grant proposal's success.

SAP Astbury-Sinervo

- 1) Applicants who prepare a grant application to the GSC that involves the use of TRIUMF infrastructure must first informally consult with TRIUMF management to determine the infrastructure resources that would be required from TRIUMF. At this stage, TRIUMF is not committing resources to a proposed project. The applicants should identify in their application what TRIUMF resources would be required.
- 2) After NSERC has received grant applications for subatomic physics research, NSERC staff and the chair of the GSC will identify those applications that propose projects that require significant TRIUMF infrastructure resources. This is often in the form of design, engineering and fabrication of specific subdetectors. A list of these grant applications identifying the specific resources needed by the proposed project will be forwarded to the Director of TRIUMF by early December.

Astbury-Sinervo

- 3) TRIUMF management will evaluate each proposed project on the basis of the amount of TRIUMF technical resources that would be required by the project during the expected lifetime of the project. Typically, this would include capital construction early in the lifespan of the project. TRIUMF will place the proposals into three categories: a) Projects where the proposed TRIUMF infrastructure requirements can be met with little impact in overall resources. This category may include experiments where the infrastructure requirements are very modest, or where there is no contention for the resources. b) Projects where TRIUMF anticipates some difficulty in meeting the projects' infrastructure needs without significant prioritization of ongoing work, or work associated with other proposed projects. For these cases, TRIUMF should provide a description of the constraints and the possible compromises in schedule or deliverables that would have to be made. c) Projects where TRIUMF has no capability to provide the requested infrastructure support, either because the required resources are already allocated or where TRIUMF does not have the technical expertise. Provided the first step is followed, this category should not be required.
- 4) TRIUMF will provide this analysis to the GSC at least two weeks prior to the GSC competition week. If necessary, the GSC will consult with TRIUMF during competition week in order to clarify the constraints on infrastructure.

CFI

- PPAC recommends following the proposed structure for CFI-funded proposals (i.e. once it is known which are funded)
 - TRIUMF participation should be not be considered “in hand” for these

Further recommendations

- PPAC recommends it be part of 5YP budget process
- TRIUMF should continue the process of generating a full accounting of resources, schedules, WBS. This input is essential for the success of any prioritization process
- TRIUMF should improve on clarifying how the user community can partner with TRIUMF on projects:
 - How to find out what TRIUMF resources are available
 - Process on how request them, how they are allocated
- Adjustments to the proposed procedure implemented as experience is gained