



The Distribution of NSERC Funds: 1987-88

From a Grantee *

* Author's identity withheld upon request

Your anonymous correspondent was recently delighted to receive the *Appendix to the Report of the President* (NSERC, 1988), listing the grants in aid of research dispensed by Committee 10 (Earth Sciences). I beg to remain anonymous in case NSERC decides that my time would be better spent counting (1) forams, (2) magnetic stripes on the sea floor, or (3) sand grains on a beach. As I have claimed before, the grants disbursed by Committee 10 form a fairly reliable way of comparing departments, because most workers rely on NSERC for the major part of their research funding. The data are publicly available in the volume published by NSERC (1988). Here, I present an analysis similar to those of the last two years (Anon., 1986, 1988).

Table 1 shows the average Operating Grant (total \$\$ divided by number of recipients) given to all Universities by Committee 10. This committee covers geology, geophysics, geography, and oceanography, as well as a few workers in allied departments such as mathematics, biology, zoology, forestry, etc. Most of last year's top ten departments remain, but Laurentian (one high grantee last year) and New Brunswick drop out, replaced by Dalhousie and Ottawa.

To make comparisons within the core of Geology and Geophysics (hereinafter referred to as the "GG Core"), I recalculated the figures (Table 2) excluding grants made to faculty outside the GG Core (i.e., excluding geography, oceanography, etc.), and excluding supplements made to University Research Fellows. The GG Core includes the Geophysics Departments at Western Ontario and York, and people identified as working in geophysics (despite assignments to various departments) at UBC, Alberta and Toronto. Compared with last year, Memorial and Laurentian drop from the top ten, being replaced by Ottawa and Montreal. Saskatchewan climbs dramatically from seventh place to the top spot, aided by the highest grant of all (\$125,000).

As a further comparison, to identify granting levels on a *Departmental* basis rather than an individual basis, I divided the total \$\$ not by the number of grantees, but by the total number of faculty in each GG core department (Table 3). The faculty numbers were derived from the AGI Directory of Geoscience Departments (1987), and include only faculty listed under the titles of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor or "on leave". I did not include Emeritus Professors, adjuncts, lecturers, research assistants, etc. Had I done so, the "average departmental grant" (Table 3) would, in almost all cases, have been reduced. Exact head counts were difficult at Guelph ("Land Resource Science"); several departments are not listed in the AGI Directory (Lethbridge, Simon Fraser, York, etc.)

and hence do not appear in Table 3. Again, the top ten departments remain essentially the same, with Memorial and Montreal dropping out, and being replaced by Lakehead and Saskatchewan.

The average grant to recipients in the GG Core (Table 2) was \$25,010, compared to \$23,669 in the previous year. The average grant disbursed by Committee 10 (Table 1) was \$23,262, compared with \$22,688 in the previous year. Only 13 departments have average grants above \$23,262 (Table 1).

By dividing total \$\$ by total number of faculty (Table 3), we gain some measure of those departments active in research "across the board". McMaster and UBC stood out last year, and McMaster and Ottawa take the honours this year (Table 3).

Table 1 Average per capita grant awarded by Committee 10.

University	Average Grant (\$)	No. of grantees
McMaster	34,459	15
Saskatchewan	30,759	13
UBC	28,974	37
Toronto	27,248	41
Alberta	27,014	31
Waterloo	26,438	19
Dalhousie	26,272	25
Western Ontario	25,804	21
Ottawa	25,074	15
Victoria	24,991	3
New Brunswick	24,881	9
Memorial	24,163	32
Manitoba	23,936	11
McGill	22,733	21
Montreal	22,704	11
Queen's	22,222	24
Calgary	21,975	18
Guelph	19,844	9
St. Mary's	19,689	3
Lakehead	19,656	7
Québec à Montréal	19,591	10
York	19,570	12
Carleton	18,548	13
Brock	18,399	4
Simon Fraser	17,700	4
École Polytechnique	16,995	6
Acadia	16,022	3
Laurentian	14,883	3
Windsor	14,721	8
Laval	14,549	14
Trent	13,813	5
INRS Georessources	13,028	14
Québec à Chicoutimi	12,169	6
Québec à Rimouski	11,812	6
Mt. Allison	11,785	3
St. Francis Xavier	11,680	1
Sherbrooke	10,125	4
Regina	10,000	2
Wilfred Laurier	9,810	1
Lethbridge	5,000	1

Table 2 Average per capita grant awarded, GG core.

Geology/Geophysics Department	Average grant (\$)	No. of grantees
Saskatchewan	34,591	11
McMaster	33,990	13
Toronto	33,158	31
Western Ontario	31,311	16
British Columbia	30,135	23
Alberta	29,070	26
Waterloo	28,338	16
Ottawa	28,236	11
York	27,705	6
Montreal	26,438	8
Memorial	25,759	23
Queen's	23,482	19
New Brunswick	23,432	8
Manitoba	22,970	10
McGill	22,373	13
Guelph	21,266	6
Québec à Montréal	20,927	8
Calgary	19,704	13
St. Mary's	19,689	3
Lakehead	19,656	7
Carleton	19,405	12
Dalhousie	18,904	9
Brock	18,399	4
École Polytechnique	16,995	6
Acadia	16,022	3
Windsor	15,290	7
Laurentian	14,883	3
Québec à Chicoutimi	12,169	6
Laval	12,010	6
Regina	12,000	1
INRS Georesources	11,868	7
St. Francis Xavier	11,680	1
Mt. Allison	10,320	2

Table 3 Average grant per Department, GG Core.

Geology/Geophysics Department	Average Grant (\$)	Number of Faculty *
McMaster	31,562	14
Ottawa	28,236	11
Toronto	23,905	43
Western Ontario	22,771	22
Waterloo	22,670	20
Alberta	22,230	34
Saskatchewan	21,139	18
McGill	20,775	14
British Columbia	20,385	34
Lakehead	19,656	7
Queen's	18,590	24
Montreal	17,625	12
Carleton	16,633	14
Memorial	16,457	36
Manitoba	16,407	14
New Brunswick	14,980	13
St. Mary's	11,813	5
Dalhousie	11,342	15
Calgary	11,137	23
INRS Georesources	10,384	8
Windsor	9,730	11
Brock	9,199	8
Québec à Montréal	8,811	19
Québec à Chicoutimi	7,302	10
Acadia	6,867	7
École Polytechnique	6,798	15
Guelph	6,076	21
Mt. Allison	5,160	4
Laval	4,804	15
Laurentian	4,465	10
St. Francis Xavier	3,893	3
Regina	1,714	7

* Assistant, Associate and Full Professors, or "on leave", as listed in the 1987 AGI Directory. Universities without Geology Departments do not appear in the AGI Directory, and hence do not appear in this table (Lethbridge, Simon Fraser, etc.).

References

- AGI, 1987, Directory of Geoscience Departments, United States and Canada, 26th Edition: American Geological Institute, Alexandria, Virginia, 237 p.
- Anon, 1986, The distribution of NSERC funds: Geoscience Canada, v. 13, p. 266-269.
- Anon, 1988, The distribution of NSERC funds: Geoscience Canada, v. 15, p. 149-150.
- NSERC, 1988, List of scholarships and grants in aid of research, 1987-88 (Appendix to the Report of the President): Minister of Supply and Services, Canada, 690 p.