Mock NSERC-R IPS Grant Application

Now that you are completing a literature review you are starting to discover some of the background information you will need to become a successful researcher in your chosen area. The realities of research are that you cannot do much research without research funding. In this assignment, you will be asked to create an application for funding from the (fictional) Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Ryerson (NSERC-R) to work with a company that would like a great computer science graduate student (like yourself) to work for them but do not have a lot of cash.

There are real grants available from the (real) Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) called "Industrial Postgraduate Scholarships" (IPS) that we will use as a model for this exercise. Their web site is located at:
http://www.nsercpartnerships.ca/FundingPrograms-ProgrammeDeSubventions/IPS-ESII-eng.asp

For the purposes of this exercise, we will be simulating the application and adjudication processes of a grant application made by you for the IPS program. Obviously, we cannot make you apply for a real grant during this course but this exercise will provide you with experience of how to go about finding money for your research and experiencing the strange things that happen during adjudication.

Who am I?

For the purposes of this exercise, you will be assigned a fake NSERC-R Personal Identification Number (PIN) by the Graduate Program Administrator. *Keep it secret*. This will be the only number that will identify your work. Do not give it to anyone else (except as outlined below) and do not place your name on any documents you create or hand in (not even on the NSERC form requesting your name). The reasons for this will become clear as the assignment unfolds.

What company will I be collaborating with?

Search the Web for a Canadian company that is working in the area that your research will focus on. As you will not really be applying to this company, you simply need their information in order to fill in the requested information on the NSERC-R application.

How will I be graded?

Through peer review.

What do I have to do?

There are four parts to this exercise.

Part 1

Create a valid IPS grant application by filling in form 200 that can be obtained from the course web site and adding additional pages where required. Use your own personal information but identify yourself only with your PIN number (do not put your name on any of the material). Instructions for filling it out can be found by clicking on the "Form 200 Instructions" link.

- Make 3 copies of your application (Each application must be stapled together at the upper left hand corner).
- Place the 3 copies in a 9" x 11" manila envelope. **DO NOT SEAL IT.**
- Write your PIN number on the outside of the envelope and the address that can be found in the Form 200 instructions.
- Deliver the package to Norm by the due date (see below). Norm will examine the application and, if it meets the formatting requirements, he will accept the application and seal the envelope. Norm will not accept packages that do not conform to the instructions.

Part 2

You will be assigned to an adjudication committee of 3 people.
- The committee must first meet and select a Chairman. The Chairman is authorized to collect the PINs of the other members of the committee.
- The Chairman must see Norm and present him with a list of the PIN numbers of the all the members of the committee.
- Norm will provide the Chairman with application envelopes with PIN numbers that do not match those of the members of the committee.
- The chairman will ensure that each member of their committee receives a copy of each of the applications provided by Norm (each member of the committee must have the same applications as every other member of the committee).

Part 3

- Each member of the committee will read and evaluate their applications and rank them from best to worst (providing reasons). Committee members looking for guidance on how this is to be done (fairly) are referred to the NSERC 'Peer Review Manual" linked from the course web site.
- The Chairman will call a meeting of the committee who will deliberate and form another list (ranked from best to worst) with a brief written reason for each decision.

- The committee will also decide if each application will be funded or not. The committee is under no obligation to fund any applications but they must reject at least 1 application for funding.

Part 4

- During our last class, each committee will present their findings via a short presentation discussing their, rankings and funded and unfunded applications making sure to provide reasons for their decisions.

Important Dates

Activity	Due Date and Time
Assignment available	16 Oct 2014
PIN numbers available from Norm	20 Oct 2014 onward
Grant Proposals due in to Norm	10 Nov 2014 by 3 pm
List of Committees (real names) available on Norm's door	12 Nov 2014
Grant Packages Available to Committee Chairmen from Norm starting	17 Nov 2014 @ noon
Last Class in Course	27 Nov 2014 @ 3 pm