

Policy on Appeals of LSDF Proposal Review

(approved by LSDF Board of Trustees on April 21, 2014)

Background

LSDF grant programs rely on expert evaluations, applied in an objective manner, that lead to funding of the highest quality projects. At the heart of LSDF's due diligence process is review and critique of grant applications by experts within the life sciences, both at the scientific/technical and the business/commercialization levels. Summaries of the reviews and funding recommendations are submitted to LSDF's Board of Trustees, who rely on this information to make the grant award decisions. On rare occasion, LSDF staff or trustees may feel that the expert review process related to a specific proposal was flawed, and this policy articulates the process to be followed under such circumstances.

Policy Statement

It shall be the policy of LSDF not to fund grant applications that have not been recommended for funding through the expert review process.

In the event that LSDF staff or trustees believe that the expert review process related to a specific proposal was flawed due to one or more of the following, that perspective shall be considered during the Board evaluation of the subject proposal for funding:

- there is evidence that one or more of the reviewers was biased;
- there is evidence that one or more of the reviewers had a conflict of interest under LSDF policy;
- the review panel lacked the appropriate expertise;
- factual errors, made by one or more reviewers during the review process, could have altered the review outcome; or
- the reviewers' proposal rating was primarily based on subjective, programmatic criteria.

In the event that a majority of trustees attending the evaluation meeting agrees that the review of the subject proposal was flawed, the proposal shall be re-reviewed by a panel having appropriate expertise in the proposal's subject matter and according to a process specified by the Board and/or staff that addresses the perceived flaw. In the re-review, the only written materials that will be considered are those submitted by the applicant 1) within the original proposal and 2) in response to questions posed by the Board in requesting the re-review.

The results of the second review shall be the basis for the final funding consideration of the subject proposal by the Board of Trustees.