

Instructions and Ground Rules for Thursday Committee Discussion

On Thursday, there's a good hour for what I call 'post MCDS presentation' conversation. The MCDS information should form the springboard—it's a tool, to copy Rosemary's favorite phrase—but the real point is for you to explore one another's biases, rationalizations, reasoning, preferences, context, assumptions and the import and flexibility associated thereto.

Very soon you are going to be shopping your proposals. Consider this discussion as furthering the general goal of increasing committee wisdom and collaborative capacity. But also consider it as an ideal way to refine your negotiation strategy.

Presumably each of you is wise enough to have started to build an idea of a solution you would like, humble enough to know your idea needs improvement and pragmatic enough to want as much information you can get to figure out how to pitch your idea to your fellows.

This conversation is designed to help you with all three of those aspects: portfolio building, portfolio improving and portfolio selling. (The last part Nicholas would frame in terms of interests, and he is correct.)

This will be a self-facilitated session so long as you stick with the rules. If you don't, Carie will crawl under the table and start facilitating (which she doesn't want to do) or make rude noises from the peanut gallery (which she does want to do—don't give her an opening). Here are the rules:

- Do read over the Weights packet sent on — and the Ratings and Decision Scores packet sent on the 17th. Carie is only giving a 10 minute presentation on this stuff. The assumption is that you will have sucked this information in prior to the meeting.
- Please come prepared with questions for your fellow ctte members, questions that come from their weights or ratings, such as “I see that you said that you care a lot about cost but not a lot about grants and loans—but wouldn't grants and loans reduce the cost?” or “when you rated legal feasibility for Portfolio 1.1, Plan A, why did you rate that one so low?”
- Call Carie if you haven't had enough of graphs and spreadsheets. She can think of no more enjoyable prospect than to discuss these materials with you. (And she has MORE!)
- After Carie's brief presentation, there'll be a break and we'll close the table up and get rid of as much paraphernalia as possible. At the table will be Ctte Members (including Rosemary) and the Independent Review Panel Members.
- Starting with the person whose birthday occurs earliest in the year (for instance, someone born January 2nd in any year), you'll go clockwise around the table with each person asking one other person at the table a specific question related to the weights, ratings or decision scores (which is basically your universe). Keep in mind these are questions.... questions not long statements. Any question that is longer than 3 sentences is suspect.
- If your questions have already been answered, you may pass. You may not give your question opportunity to someone else.
- Only the person asked may answer. This is the hard one but the exercise will soon fall into shambles (and be dominated by a few people). Please monitor yourself on this and also help your fellow ctte members to remember it.
- Continue this way until all the questions have been answered.

On Friday there will be a more free-floating discussion.