What's new at the CFI?

Agenda

- Good practices

- Topics of interest

- Modernizing the JELF

Portfolio of projects

- Inventory of research infrastructure
- Amendment requests that benefit a portfolio of projects
- Single procurements to address multiple infrastructure needs
- Managing CFI-funded infrastructure as core facilities

Core facilities

- Increased utilization and broader access
- Avoid duplication
- Economies of scale
- Skilled operators
- Promotion of inter-disciplinarity
- Attraction of external users
- Improved sustainability

Proposal development and internal review process

- Personnel involved at the proposal stage: research services, finance, procurement, and facilities management

- Internal review process: internal and external membership

- Suggested reviewers: cannot be included in principal users, other users or collaborate on project

Timely implementation

- Giving consideration to all key aspects of a project's implementation at the proposal development stage
- Establishing realistic and reasonable implementation timelines at the proposal and award finalization stages
- Finalizing award agreements quickly
- Monitoring project timelines during implementation

Operation & maintenance

- Developing appropriate project-specific management and sustainability plans at the proposal development stage

- Long-term planning and monitoring of O&M costs and related funding

- Adopting strategies that optimize resources for the O&M of the institution's portfolio of projects (e.g. making optimal use of the Infrastructure Operating Fund, locating infrastructure in core facilities where shared technicians can maintain infrastructure related to several projects)

SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICES @INNOVATION.CA

https://www.innovation.ca/awards/sharing-good-practices

https://www.innovation.ca/fr/le-financement/bonnes-pratiques

Project leader moving to another institution

- JELF award
  - Not finalized: may be transferred to another Canadian institution, if not will be withdrawn
  - Finalized: institution keep equipment and name another project leader OR transfer award to another Canadian institution, if not award will be withdrawn and reimbursed
- Innovation Fund award
  - Institution(s) keep equipment and name another project leader

Advanced research computing

- Capacity or throughput computing
- Capability computing supporting tightly coupled, fine-grained applications
- Shared memory systems
- Systems supporting very large memory requirements
- High-performance storage
- Long-term storage
- Cloud computing
- Computing using specialized accelerators, including GP-CPU and others
- High-performance visualization systems
- Systems suitable for computational steering and interactive use

- When to talk to Compute Canada? **Always**

In-kind contributions

Establishing fair market value

- Confirmation from supplier of price after normal and educational discounts
- Other bids that provide useful market comparisons
- Cash paid in a previous purchase of similar item (not related to a CFI-funded project)
- Experience with supplier's discount structure

In-kind contribution in excess of $500,000

- Price must be corroborated with other sources of information
- Fair market value must be formally assessed by performing:
  - a market comparison
  - a comparison with previous purchases at the institution or by other institutions
  - an appraisal

Modernizing the JELF

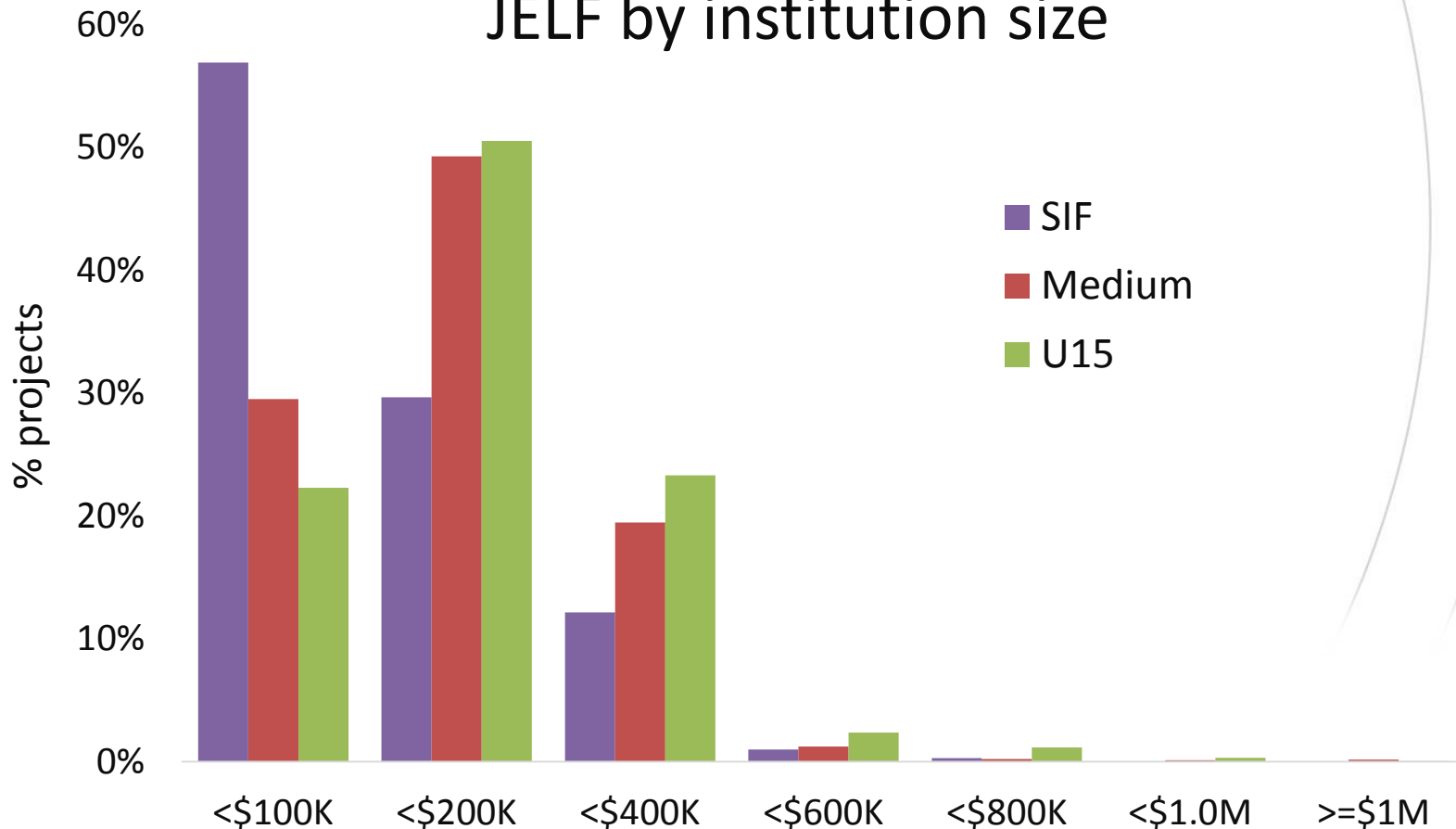- Reduce burden
- Increased flexibility
- Strategic tool

Historical data

Distribution of amounts requested from the JELF by institution size

Application size

- One document - 17 pages ⟶ (6 p. reduction)
- Modify *Need for infrastructure* criterion
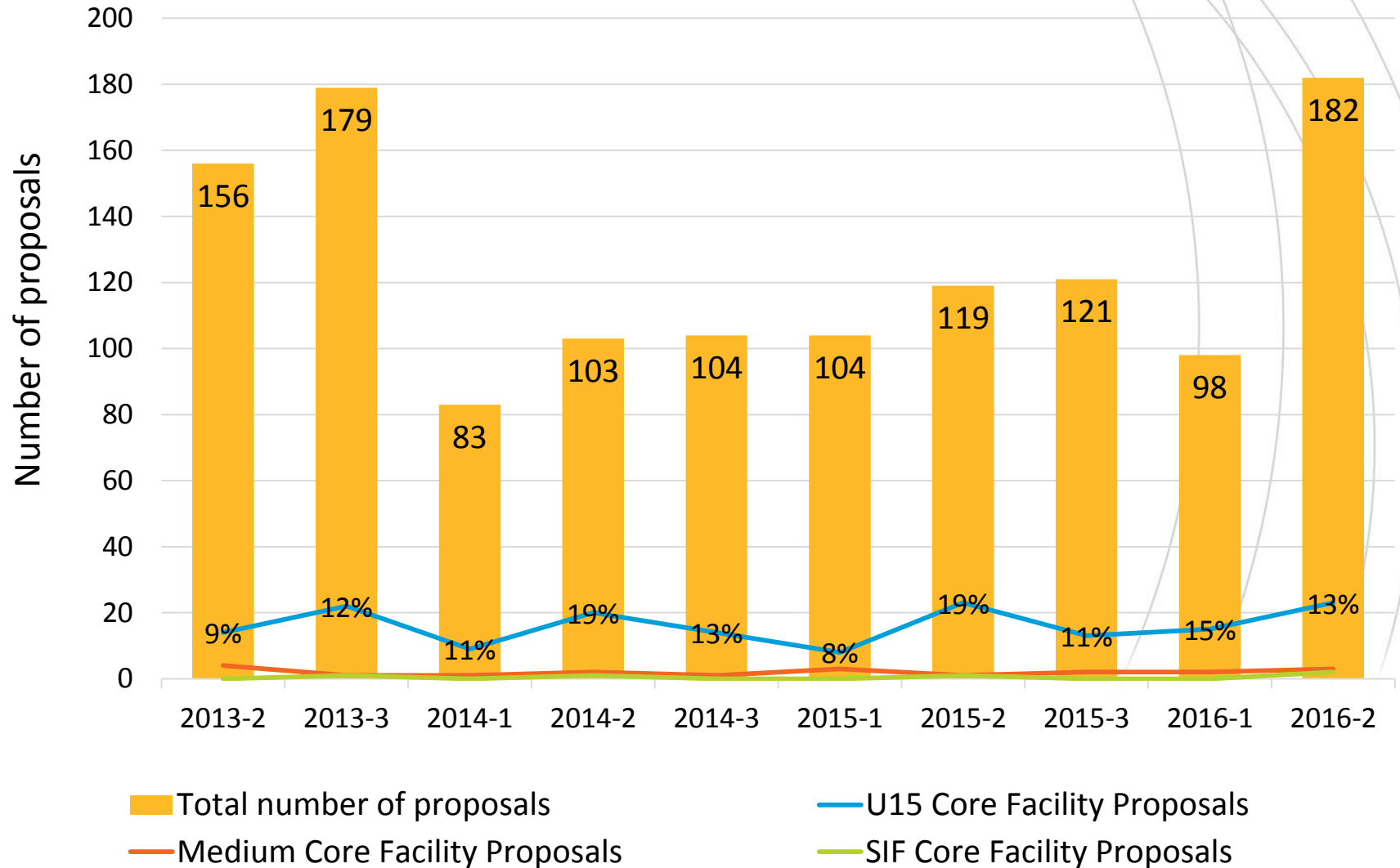- Revisit wording of the assessment criterion and instructions

Strategic Research Plans

- No longer provide link to SRP to reviewers

- Proposal submission letter

- Institutional commitment and sustainability

"Workhorse" infrastructure

- Revisit wording to increase clarity in guidelines and instructions

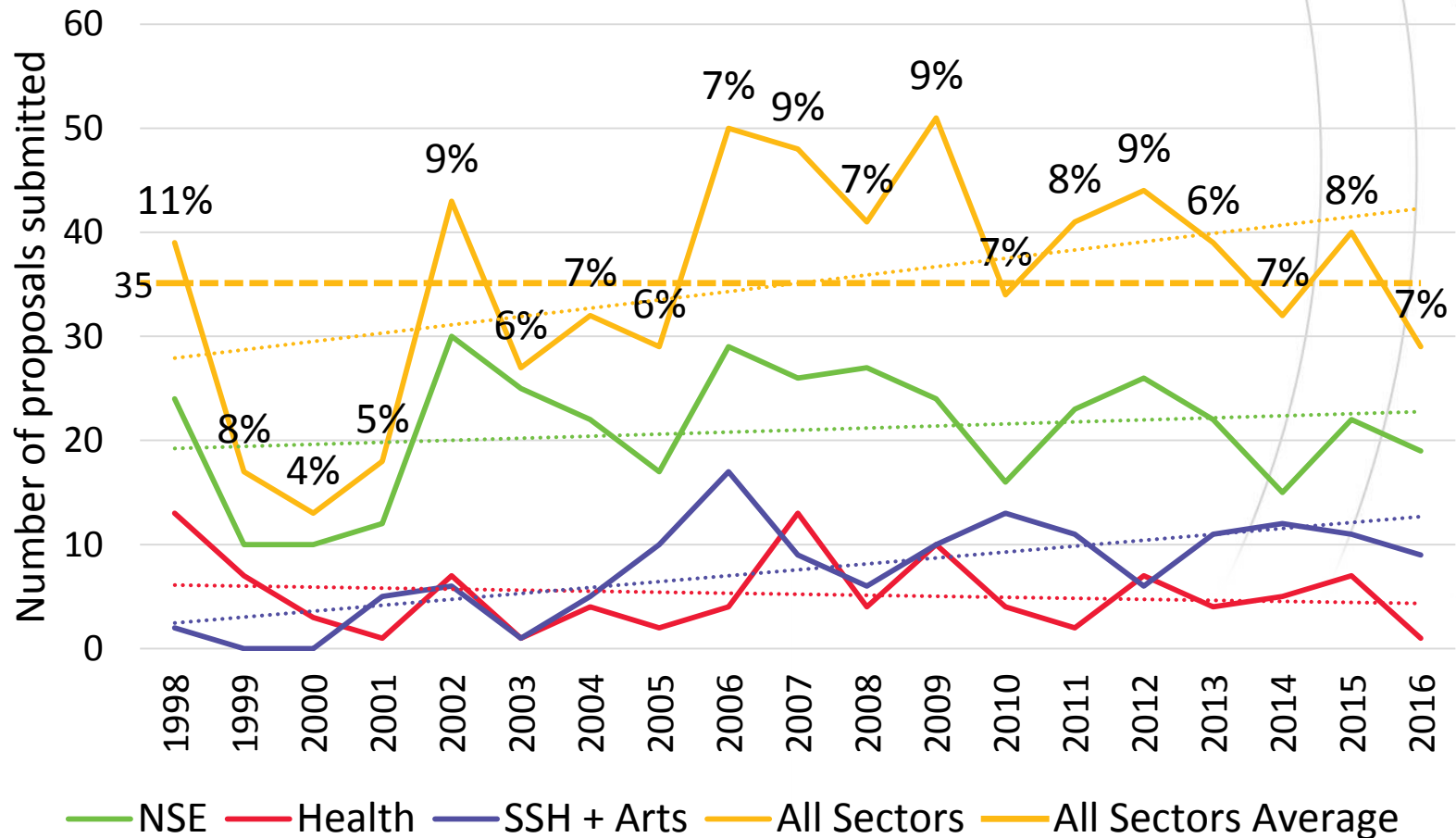- Build and enhance research capacity

- Add drop list or tick box

Proposals with infrastructure being placed in a core facility (submissions per JELF round)

Proposals with small requests ($$)

The number of all ≤$50K proposals submitted annually

Legend: NSE, Health, SSH + Arts, All Sectors, All Sectors Average

Other topics

- CAMS JELF allocation balance

- Add SW rating to JELF review process

- Compute Canada condition

- University's internal success rates of JELF competitions

Thank you!