

Process employed for Review List items with no submissions

August 2023

Prior to the start of the 2023 submission round, about 150 conferences were identified that should be pro-actively reviewed. Some of these were A or A* conferences that had never had a full review. Others were B conferences that, using an automated filter, looked like they should be reviewed as preliminary data showed that they looked more like C than B.

For all conferences on the review list a member of the steering committee, or a recent or current Chair was contacted to alert them to the fact that the conference was being reviewed, and that it was important to ensure that a submission was made. They were informed that without a submission they would be disadvantaged as a full submission allows the conference to present all relevant information and to get an informed assessment. E-mail and reminders were also sent to the rankings mailing lists, and the review list was accessible on the web.

Unfortunately despite efforts, some of the conferences on the review list did not have submissions. As had been advised in the various emails, these were then assessed purely on the basis of the limited data available - in most cases citation statistics and author strength statistics relative to the Field of Research code. Where available these are accessible from the conference record.

Where the limited data was ambiguous, it was not possible to know how further information would have affected the outcome. Consequently the administrative decision was taken to choose the lower rank where applicable. To do otherwise would potentially have given the conference an advantage over those who did make a submission. Area committees were not involved in these decisions.