FDP Foundations and Public Charities Task Force  
(A Joint Task Force Between FDP and NCURA)  
May 1, 2003 Meeting Minutes


Discussion and Summary of Activity Since January 2003 Meeting:
At the January meeting the Task Force decided to poll – with the assistance of NCURA staff – the membership of both FDP and NCURA, asking members which foundations and charities are most important to them. Replies to the polling were based on the amount of funding awarded and/or the number of applications submitted and awards received. A total of 34 respondents from FDP institutions identified 160 foundations and public charities most crucial to their missions.

Discussion of Next Steps:
It was decided that the survey should remain open for a short time to allow additional responses.

It was affirmed that our next step will be a foundation/charity/software/vendor roundtable discussion, probably just prior or after to the September FDP meeting. We encourage everyone attending – especially faculty – to review the list of foundations and public charities and indicate which ones your institutions have strong contacts with. We will also be polling for this information via email and an online database. We would also encourage Research Administrators to involve the Development Offices at their respective campuses.

Two major challenges were identified:
- Getting foundations/charities with eRA systems in place to move toward standardization.
- Assisting those foundations without systems, with the design of an eRA system that generally serves all sponsors and all the types of programs they fund (not just research). This flexibility is required to encourage sponsors to “buy in”. Systems that are totally self-serving of the Research community will not be successful, unless funding research is also the primary mission of the charity/foundation.