



Reduction of Administrative Burden

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Research Business Models Subcommittee

- Subcommittee of the Committee on Science, a chartered committee of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).
- Objectives include:
 - facilitating a coordinated effort across research Federal agencies to address important policy implications arising from the changing nature of scientific research, and
 - examining the effects of these changes on business models for the conduct of scientific research sponsored by the Federal government.
- Works closely with FDP

- **Science**
 - Maximize Public Investment in Science by Maximizing the Intellectual Capital of Our Scientists
- **Partnership**
 - Collaborate on Business Systems While Supporting Outstanding Research Projects
- **Accountability**
 - Make it Easy to Do the Right Thing
- **Administration**
 - Let Science Drive Administration, Not Administration Drive Science

- Uniform Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)
- Use of multiple Principal Investigators on Federal research awards
- Implementation of a common set of award terms and conditions

- The continuing complexity of conducting Federally-funded research and the constrained financial climate have brought renewed attention to the issue of administrative burden.
- According to the 2005 survey conducted by the FDP Faculty Standing Committee:
 - Investigators reported that 42% of their supported activities committed to federal research are devoted to management, oversight and administrative requirements of project management rather than the actual conduct of research.
 - The administrative burden is not due to a few particularly burdensome tasks, but instead reflects the cumulative effect of the many administrative burdens.

- RBM is considering possible ways to relieve the administrative burden on faculty.
- Possible topics:
 - The OMB Circular A-21 cap on the administrative portion of indirect costs that a university may recover through its Federal grants and contracts.
 - Expand allocable and allowable direct costs on research projects to include:
 - Research project management support
 - Technology commercialization activities

- We need to hear from you:
 - Options to reduce the administrative burden on faculty (those already mentioned and any others)
 - How research management has changed since the cap was instituted
 - How to make the case that universities are managing current administrative costs efficiently