

Administrative Cost Working Group

FDP Meeting – Washington, DC

September 2011

A-21 Task Force

- RFI: Reduction of Cost and Burden Associated with Fed Cost Principles (A-21)
- Task Force chaired by OMB and contains reps from: USDA, DOD, DOE, DHHS, NSF, NASA...
- Response due on 7/28/2011
- Task Force issues internal recommendations by late August.
- Phase II is expected

AAMC

- Costs that can fairly be allocated to individual projects should be allowed to be directly charged.
- Direct charging of administrative and compliance activities conducted by faculty or staff should be allowed and encouraged when those activities can be specifically identified to an individual project.

AAU & PLU

- **New Federal regulatory and compliance mandates require faculty responses/input**
- **Draws faculty time away from research, education and mentoring**
- **Allowing researchers to charge some level of administrative and compliance support directly to federal grants**
- **Propose to charge an “allowance” related to project management activities**

COGR

- Admin cost methodology in A-21 was written >20 years ago.
- Focused on “secretarial activities” that supported multiple institutional activities and could not readily be allocated to a specific project
- “Project management activities” can be specifically identified to individual projects, are allocable to projects based on proportional benefit, and should be direct charged

Duke University

- Acknowledge the changing dynamic of project support function.
- New profession of research support staff
- Individuals with professional credentials, standards and body of knowledge
- Relieve faculty of burdensome compliance and financial management duties
- Classify project management activities as a direct costs, when specifically identified to a project

Stanford University

- “Perfect Storm”
 - Major projects revision to A-21 (1993)
 - 26% administrative cap
 - Expanded compliance requirements
- Reasonable to direct charge administrative and compliance support costs
 - Part of scope of work
 - Necessary to accomplish project

Washington University

- Significant changes over last 20 years
 - Developing and maintaining assurances & protocols
 - Volume and complexity of data/images
- PI could transfer these duties to project staff with sufficient technical/scientific skills
- Functions are now commonplace within academic research community
- Update A-21 to recognize functions as a direct charge.

Comments & Discussion