



National Science Board Task Force on Administrative Burdens

Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting

Dr. Lisa Nichols
January 6, 2014





Task Force on Administrative Burdens

December 2012

Charge

To examine the administrative burden imposed on federally supported researchers at U.S. colleges, universities, and non-profit institutions and offer recommendations where appropriate on relieving the administrative workload.





Task Force on Administrative Burdens

Dr. Arthur Bienenstock, *Chair*

Dr. Bonnie Bassler

Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier

Dr. Alan Leshner

Dr. Carl Lineberger

Dr. Diane Souvaine

Liaisons: Dr. Lisa Nichols and Dr. John Veysey

Executive Secretary: Mr. Jeremy Leffler



Activities: Speakers

- FDP Faculty Workload Survey results and current and planned initiatives
- Activities of the Research Business Models Working Group
- Accreditors perspective on IACUC and IRB administrative burden





Information Collection

- Request for Information March 2013
- Roundtable discussions April-May 2013
- Analysis of findings completed August 2013





Top Reported Burdens

- Financial management
- Grant proposals and submission
- Progress and other reporting
- Human subject research and IRBs
- Effort reporting
- Animal subject research and IACUCs





RFI Report: Outreach

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
and the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

NSF Board, Director, and Policy staff; NIH Office of
Extramural Research; Office of Science and
Technology Policy; RBM; and FDP

Council on Government Relations; Association of
American Universities; Association of Public and
Land-Grant Universities

Cross-cutting Themes

- Legislative and regulatory burden
- Need for greater harmonization
- Burden due to audit and oversight
- Variable institutional support





Respondent Recommendations on Harmonization

Interagency Working Group with stakeholder representation to prioritize areas in need of harmonization



Financial Management

- **Budget preparation**

Simple budget at proposal

- **Financial tracking and reporting**

Reducing the frequency of reports; consistent policies for audit

- **Purchasing**

Justifications only for larger purchases

- **Travel**

Use of per diem allowances





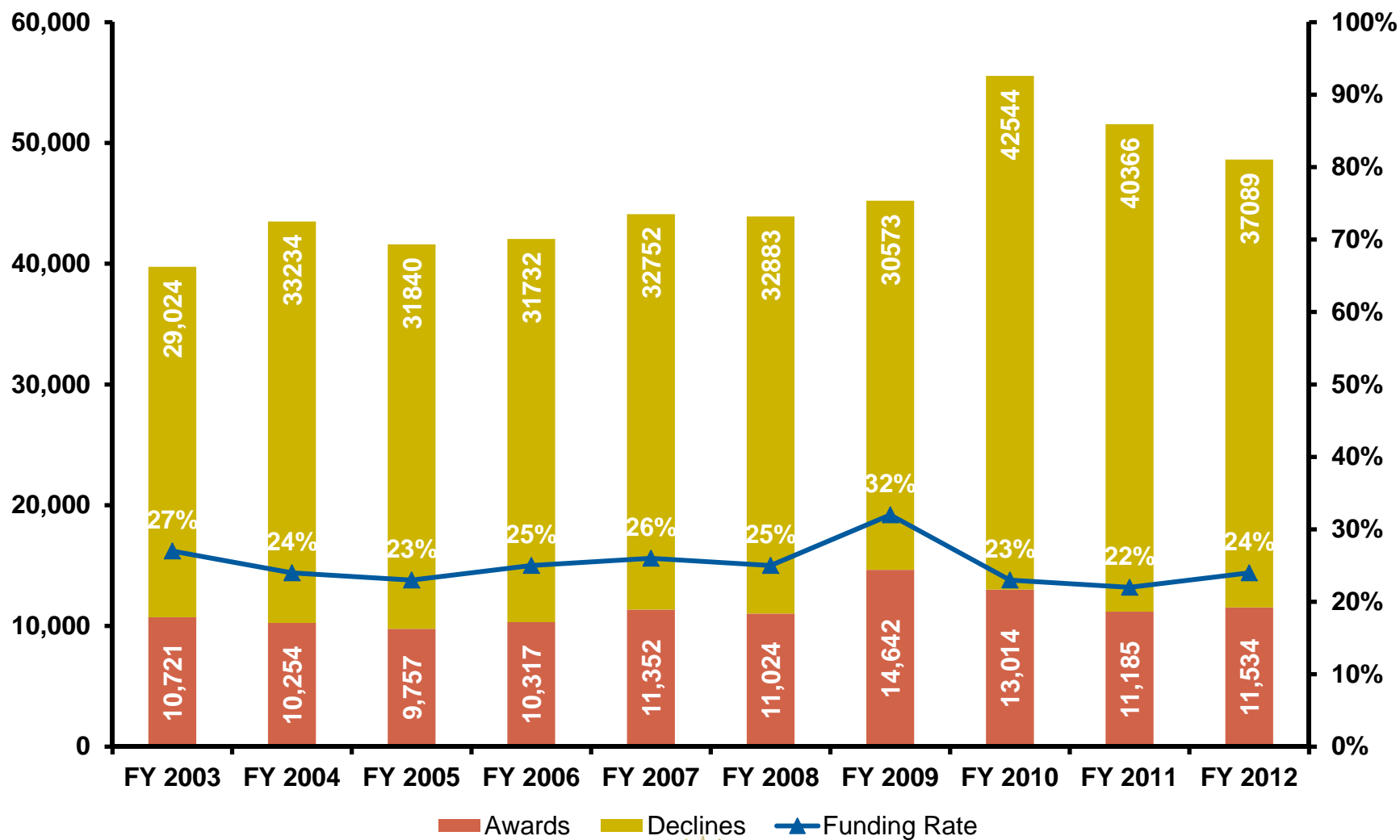
Grant Proposals and Submission

- Low success rates
- Supplemental materials
 - Preliminary proposals; broadening just-in-time
- Grant submission systems
 - Standardization; centralized database for biosketches, CVs, and other documents





Awards, Declines and Funding Rates





Progress and Other Reporting

- **Frequency**
Reducing frequency
- **Research Performance Progress Report**
Reducing scope; eliminating agency-specific requirements
- **Additional reporting requirements**
Limiting additional requirements





Human Subject Research and IRBs

- Increasingly complex requirements without perceived meaningful benefit to participants
 - Support for select ANPRM proposed changes
- Failure to properly calibrate requirements to risk
- Redundant review
 - Eliminating requirements that lead to redundant review
- Audit/oversight extending beyond the regulations



Effort Reporting

- Time-consuming
- Lacking merit
- Support for elimination or reform





Animal Research and IACUCs

- Escalating regulations
A single set of guidelines; harmonizing requirements;
exempt and expedited review categories
- Redundant review
- Audit and liability/institutional burden
- Annual and three-year review
- Animal usage
- Regulating through guidance



Other Areas of Reported Burden

- Personnel management
- Financial conflict of interest
- Subcontracts
- Training
- Lab safety and security



NSF-Specific Comments

- Broader impacts
- Reporting and oversight for large grants and centers
 - Reduce requirements
- Detailed budgets
 - Simple or no budget at initial proposal





Timeline for Completion

Teleconference January 30, 2014

Publication anticipated late March/Early April 2014





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