THE FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

REPORT

2003–2004
In September 2002, as the Federal Demonstration Partnership entered its Phase IV, John Marburger, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, spoke to the membership. His comments about the university/government partnership were particularly appropriate as the FDP looked forward to embarking on Phase IV of the relationship. Marburger commented that “The partnership between universities and the federal government is a complicated one and sometimes subject to suspicion and bitter disagreements” but added that on the whole the relationship has been a positive one because all parties acknowledge the contributions not only that universities make to the nation, but also the essential role of federal support in maintaining national leadership in education and research. Begun as an experiment in 1986 between five federal agencies (NSF, NIH, ONR, DOE, and USDA) and the Florida State University System and the University of Miami to test and evaluate a grant mechanism utilizing a standardized and simplified set of terms and conditions across all participating agencies, the FDP has evolved into an organization of 10 federal agencies and more than 90 universities dedicated to finding efficient and effective ways to support research by maximizing resources available for research and minimizing administration costs.

Over the past two years, the FDP has continued the mission of streamlining the administration of grants by:

- Illustrating the relationship and trade-offs among regulatory burden, research productivity, and administrative support.
- Monitoring compliance issues including visa processing for foreign scholars and students, “sensitive but unclassified” information dissemination, and streamlining processes involving select agents.
- Supporting the goals of the National Science and Technology Council’s (NSTC) Research Business Models (RBM) Subcommittee activities to address important policy implications arising from the changing nature of scientific research, and examine the effects of these changes on business models for the conduct of scientific research sponsored by the Federal government.
- Supporting the President’s Management Agenda, specifically e-Government initiatives.
- Identifying ways to broaden participation of underrepresented populations in sponsored research, including outreach to minority serving institutions.
- Recommending ways to streamline the audit requirements for universities working with other universities as subrecipients.

As the FDP continues into the next years of Phase IV, the FDP will continue to be a place where federal agencies and research institutions can evaluate new ideas, discuss and evaluate options and provide a test bed for demonstrations.

I would like to add a personal note. I have been fortunate to be affiliated with the FDP from its initial phase as the Federal Demonstration Project to its current Phase IV activities. Although I am retiring at the end of September 2004, I will remember fondly the work that we did, the colleagues who provided so much leadership and enthusiasm for the FDP, and the friendships that I made.

Julie Norris, FDP Chair
During its initial phase (as the Florida Demonstration Allocation of Space Costs—The allocation of facilities (space) costs is one of the most complicated and Research Administrators. An opportunity to identify administrative burdens and change federal policies and practices. Bringing research grants into the age of electronic commerce by providing input and supporting the development of systems that allow electronic notification of awards and funding opportunity announcements. Working with federal agencies, the FDP pioneered the concept of a single electronic interface between government and the research community. The FDP developed standards for organizational and professional profiles, electronic notification of awards and funding opportunity announcements. Working with federal agencies, the FDP developed standards for organizational and professional profiles, and electronic systems that allow institutions to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities.

The FDP, a partnership of federal agencies, universities, and industry, is working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of federal research administration. The FDP has created a set of standards for electronic grant application and notification systems, which are now being used by many organizations. This document is heavily used by FDP participants and consolidates relevant administrative requirements and practices.

**FDP Activities**

- Developing a set of standards for electronic grant application and notification systems.
- Coordinating with agencies to streamline processes and reduce administrative burdens.
- Working with universities and industry to improve the efficiency of research administration.
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- Working with universities and industry to improve the efficiency of research administration.

**Financial Support of the Federal Demonstration Partnership**

The FDP is supported by the participating agencies, which provide funding to cover the costs of operations. The FDP also receives funding from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and other sources.

**Terms and Conditions**

- The FDP agreements are subject to the terms and conditions of the participating agencies.
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**Functional Standing Committees**

- The FDP has several standing committees that provide direction and oversight for different aspects of the partnership.
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**Executive Committee**

- The Executive Committee is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the FDP and making decisions on major policies and priorities.
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**Co-Chairs**

- Joanna Rom, National Science Foundation, and Donna Helm, Johns Hopkins University.
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**Operational Standing Committees**

- The FDP has several operational standing committees that focus on specific areas of the partnership.
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**Leadership**

- The FDP has a strong leadership team that includes the Executive Director, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Executive Committee.
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**Members**

- The FDP is open to new members, including universities, research institutions, and other organizations that are interested in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of research administration.
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**Contact Information**

- Contact information for the FDP can be found on the FDP website.
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**Conclusion**

The FDP is a successful partnership that is making a significant impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of research administration. The FDP is committed to continuing its work to improve the research grant application and notification process and to make federal research administration more efficient and effective.
MESSAGE FROM THE FDP CHAIR

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INTRODUCTION TO THE FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is a unique cooperative initiative among 10 federal agencies and 94 institutional recipients of federal funds; its purpose is to provide a test bed for demonstrations.

FDP ACTIVITIES

The FDP is committed to experimenting with new, streamlined processes and procedures to reduce the burden of federal sponsored research administration. The FDP spent considerable resources and has greatly increased the burden on administrators and faculty. The impact of the increased regulation on sponsored programs administration productivity is complex and requires an understanding of the underlying cause and effect. The FDP has developed methods and techniques to evaluate the impact of these changes on the research community.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

The FDP receives financial support from participating federal agencies through a variety of means, including grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. The FDP Executive Committee provides overall direction for the FDP and its members.

OPERATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES

The FDP includes standing committees to provide leadership, guidance, and oversight for FDP activities. The Standing Committees include:

- Membership
- Terms and Conditions
- Financial Support
- Administrative Processes
- Research Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Institutes of Health
- Office of Naval Research
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Education

The FDP Executive Committee provides overall direction for the FDP and its members.
During its initial phase (as the Florida Demonstration Partnership, FDP), one of the FDP's first great achievements was to work out a way to streamline the administration of federal grants. In addition to reducing administrative burden on federal agencies, the Partnership has worked to identify hot issues and develop demonstrations that can be scaled up when successful. The Partnership’s work has led to significant changes in federal regulations governing the conduct of sponsored research, and has greatly increased the burden on administrators and faculty. The impact of the increased regulatory burden has been particularly profound for faculty, since the increased time that has to be devoted to administrative tasks has led to a decrease in the amount of time available for research.

One of the FDP's primary goals is to bring research grants into the age of electronic commerce. The Partnership supports the development of electronic research administration (eRA) tools that can be used to streamline the process of federal grant administration. This effort is being led by the FDP's Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Standing Committee, which consists of representatives from all federal grant-making agencies. Working with federal agencies, the goal will be to standardize the reporting frequency and format for sponsored program activity reports. This will help to reduce the administrative burden associated with submitting annual reports to federal agencies.

An ongoing focus for FDP IV is electronic research administration (eRA). While the Administrative Process Standing Committee has made significant progress in reducing the administrative burden associated with federal grants, there is still work to be done. The Partnership is committed to continuing its efforts to streamline the process of federal grant administration. This includes working with federal agencies to develop new tools and processes that can be used to reduce the administrative burden associated with federal grants.

### Benefits of FDP Participation
The FDP has been successful in reducing the administrative burden associated with federal grants. By working with federal agencies to develop new tools and processes, the Partnership has been able to reduce the amount of time that is spent on administrative tasks. This has allowed researchers to focus on their research and has helped to increase the amount of time that is spent on scientific research.

### Operational Standing Committees
**Message from the FDP Chair**

- The Partnership is committed to continuing its efforts to streamline the process of federal grant administration. This includes working with federal agencies to develop new tools and processes that can be used to reduce the administrative burden associated with federal grants.

**FDP Activities**

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**Function:**

- Operational Standing Committees

**Financing:**

- The Partnership is committed to continuing its efforts to streamline the process of federal grant administration. This includes working with federal agencies to develop new tools and processes that can be used to reduce the administrative burden associated with federal grants.

**Members:**

- The Partnership is committed to continuing its efforts to streamline the process of federal grant administration. This includes working with federal agencies to develop new tools and processes that can be used to reduce the administrative burden associated with federal grants.
**MESSAGE FROM THE FDP CHAIR**

Julie Norris, FDP Chair

...continue the reform of the processes through the development and implementation of new initia-

tives and standards that support modern research practices.

The FDP works through a variety of standing committees and task forces. Each is co-chaired by a representa-
tive of a federal agency and an institution. The standing committees are concerned with issues that require con-

current action by the FDP membership and other stakeholders. The committees do not report to the Executive 

Committee, but their recommendations are presented to the membership for consideration and action. The 

Standing Committees include:

- **Research Administration:**
  - The Research Administration Standing Committee focuses on issues related to research administra-

   tion, including simplification of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The committee 

   identifies and develops best practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.

- **Faculty:**
  - The Faculty Standing Committee addresses issues related to faculty involvement in research administra-

   tion, including simplification of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The committee 

   identifies and develops best practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.

- **Technology:**
  - The Technology Standing Committee focuses on issues related to technology and process improve-

   ments, including simplification of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The commit-

   tee identifies and develops best practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.

- **Membership:**
  - The Membership Standing Committee focuses on issues related to membership and participation of 

   emerging research institutions; clarifying membership requirements and procedures, ensuring diversity and 

   equity in the FDP membership, and formulating strategies to expand membership to include emerging 

   research institutions.

- **Grants Management:**
  - The Grants Management Standing Committee focuses on issues related to grants management, 

   including simplification of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The committee 

   identifies and develops best practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.

- **Ethics:**
  - The Ethics Standing Committee focuses on issues related to ethical considerations in research administra-

   tion, including simplification of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The committee 

   identifies and develops best practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.

- **Policy:**
  - The Policy Standing Committee focuses on issues related to policy and simplification of regulations, 

   including simplification of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The committee 

   identifies and develops best practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.

- **Finance:**
  - The Finance Standing Committee focuses on issues related to financial management, including simplification 

   of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The committee identifies and develops best 

   practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP**

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is a unique cooperative initiative among 10 federal agencies and more than 90 universities dedicated to finding efficient and effective ways to support the President’s Management Agenda, specifically e-Government initiatives. The FDP worked in Phase I (1992-1996) with 18 federal agencies and 15 universities to test and evaluate a grant mechanism utilizing a standardized and simplified set of terms and conditions across all participating agencies, the FDP has evolved into an organization of 10 federal agencies and more than 90 universities dedicated to finding efficient and effective ways to support research by maximizing resources available for research and minimizing administration costs.

During its initial phase (as the Florida Demonstration Project), the FDP explored ways to change the focus from accounting processes to accountability by making administrative requirements simpler and more user-friendly. The FDP’s approach was to remove all unnecessary conditions and focus on issues that mattered most to the research community, including outreach to minority serving institutions. The standing committees of the FDP continued to develop a working set of terms and conditions for the streamlined grants management process. The FDP set out to create a single face for grants management across all federal granting agencies.

During FDP Phase III (1996-2002), the FDP broadened its focus to include the development of standards for electronic research administration (eRA). The FDP developed standards for organizational and professional profiles, electronic notification of awards and funding opportunity announcements. Working with federal agencies, the FDP provided input and support in the development of the Federal Commons, supported by a single sign-on for access to online assistance and help features.

The FDP continued its work in Phase IV (2002-2006) to further simplify the funding process and reduce administrative requirements. The FDP worked on simplifying the requirements for new and revised awards, establishing procedures for electronic pre-award notifications, and streamlining the electronic payment process. The FDP also worked on developing a comprehensive suite of training materials for the Federal Commons.

**FDP RECENT ACTIVITIES**

- **Software Development:** The FDP developed a suite of software tools to support the streamlined grants management process, including the Federal Commons and the Federal Grants Management System.
- **Data Exchange:** The FDP worked to establish data exchange standards that would allow for the seamless transfer of data between federal agencies and research institutions.
- **Policy and Procedures:** The FDP worked on developing a comprehensive suite of policies and procedures to support the streamlined grants management process.

**FDP ACTIVITIES**

- **Research Administration:** The FDP works to improve the research administration process through the development and implementation of new initiatives and standards. The FDP works with federal agencies and universities to develop and implement new practices and technologies to improve the research administration process.
- **Grants Management:** The FDP works to improve the grants management process through the development and implementation of new initiatives and standards. The FDP works with federal agencies and universities to develop and implement new practices and technologies to improve the grants management process.
- **Policy and Procedures:** The FDP works to develop and implement new policies and procedures to support the streamlined grants management process.

**OPERATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES**

- **Membership:** The Membership Standing Committee focuses on issues related to membership and participation of emerging research institutions; clarifying membership requirements and procedures, ensuring diversity and equity in the FDP membership, and formulating strategies to expand membership to include emerging research institutions.
- **Grants Management:** The Grants Management Standing Committee focuses on issues related to grants management, including simplification of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The committee identifies and develops best practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.
- **Policy:** The Policy Standing Committee focuses on issues related to policy and simplification of regulations, including simplification of regulations, and technology and process improvements. The committee identifies and develops best practices to improve the administration and support of research projects.
MESSAGE FROM THE FDP CHAIR

During its initial phase (as the Florida Demonstration Partnership), the focus was on creating a real-world laboratory to develop and test new ways of doing business in federal research administration. One of the FDP’s first great achievements was working with five federal agencies (NSF, NIH, ONR, DOE, and USDA) and the Florida State University System and the University of Miami to test and evaluate a grant mechanism utilizing a standardized and simplified set of terms and conditions. This work was aimed at maximizing resources available for research and minimizing administrative costs.

The relationship has been positive because all parties acknowledge the contributions not only that the FDP made to simplify processes but also the positive impact these changes had on their respective agencies’ ability to fund important research.

I, Julie Norris, am stepping down from my position as FDP Chair later this month. During my time in office, I have been privileged to work with dedicated colleagues, knowledgeable and passionate experts, and federal agency partners who have shared their experience and wisdom.

On September 2002, as the Federal Demonstration Partnership entered its Phase IV, John S. Hoagland was appointed as FDP Chair. To替换 John, I would like to announce that Jane Beinne is now the Chair of the FDP. Jane is a former Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services and has extensive experience in federal research administration. During Phase IV, the FDP instituted an annual membership fee for each member institution. The Finance Standing Committee was established to monitor new and changed statutes and OMB Circulars to determine whether changes to the FDP General Terms and Conditions Standing Committee breakout session need to be made. The eRA committee informed the federal e-grants community of the FDP’s progress and focus on electronic research administration.

The FDP is committed to experimenting with new, streamlined processes and procedures to reduce the burden of administering federal research grants. An ongoing focus for FDP IV is electronic research administration (eRA). While the Administrative Process Standing Committee is concerned with policy and simplification of regulations, the eRA committee informs the federal e-grants community of the FDP’s progress and focus on electronic research administration.

I would like to add a personal note. I have been fortunate to be affiliated with the FDP from its inception in 1986. Observing the changes over the years, I have seen the FDP evolve into a more efficient and effective partnership. The FDP has become an influential voice in the federal research administration community, and I am proud to have been part of this journey.

I will remember fondly the work that we did, the colleagues and friends I made along the way, and the positive impact that the FDP has had on the research community. I look forward to seeing where the FDP goes in the future and wish Jane and the new team well on their endeavors.

Julie Norris, FDP Chair

FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.

OPERATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES

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FDP SUCCESS STORIES

During Phase II, the FDP conducted two national surveys to collect data on the impact of ERA applications on sponsored programs administration productivity and efficiency. One survey was conducted in 1992 and the other in 1995. These surveys provided valuable information on the impact of ERA on the research community and helped inform future efforts to streamline processes.

One of the FDP’s early collaborations was with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to pioneer the concept of an electronic interface between government and the research community. The NIH led the way in developing a single face for grant applications called the Federal Commons, supported by a consortium of research institutions. This effort was instrumental in shifting research administration into the electronic age.

Another important accomplishment was the establishment of a National Advisory Committee for Research Administration (NACRA), which served as a forum for stakeholders to discuss and develop consensus on research administration policies and practices. The NACRA helped to develop a set of best practices for research administration that are still in use today.

The FDP successfully tested the idea of a single electronic interface between government and the research community. This initiative was later expanded to include all federal agencies and has since become the foundation for the eRA system.

The FDP has also been successful in working with federal agencies to simplify and streamline processes. One example is the development of a set of best practices for research administration that have been adopted by many federal agencies.

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The Expanded Authorities have been incorporated for several years into OMB Circular A-110, but only as the default for research. Even with research programs, there are program-specific and agency restrictions on the participation of minority serving institutions and emerging research institutions. On the institution side, the task force is working closely with the National Council of University Research Administrators to develop and test new grants management processes. The task force will also examine the advantages and disadvantages of the current approach to identifying and implementing new awards mechanisms that support basic research laboratories. The task force is examining new award mechanisms to support basic research laboratories through the participation of minority serving institutions and emerging research institutions. The task force will also review the relatedness concept and its implementation in subcontracts with other higher education institutions. Three FDP federal agency members (NASA, NSF, and NIH) maintain a current list of federal acquisition regulation flowdown clauses with links from DoD, and NIH to identify impediments to adoption across all projects and programs and to evaluate the feasibility of extending Expanded Authorities to all awards subject to A-110. In 2003, the task force conducted a survey to determine the extent of agency disapprovals on routine administrative requests. Based on the survey, the task force identified opportunities for extending Expanded Authorities to all awards subject to A-110. In 2004, the task force established a working group to explore the potential for extending Expanded Authorities to all awards subject to A-110. The working group identified opportunities for extending Expanded Authorities to all awards subject to A-110. The working group identified opportunities for extending Expanded Authorities to all awards subject to A-110. The working group identified opportunities for extending Expanded Authorities to all awards subject to A-110. The working group identified opportunities for extending Expanded Authorities to all awards subject to A-110. The working group identified opportunities for extending Expanded Authorities to all awards subject to A-110.
The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is a multi-agency partnership that develops, tests, and promotes best practices and tools for federal agencies and the higher education community involved in institutional research administration. FDP was created in 1985 as a way for federal agencies to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of research administration processes and to share information and best practices. The FDP consists of 19 federal agencies and 19 member universities and organizations, with a total of 45 institutions participating in the partnership. The FDP has a three-phase structure, with each phase focusing on different aspects of research administration. The first phase, FDP I, focused on the development of a national subaward agreement for institutions participating in the partnership. The second phase, FDP II, expanded the partnership to include more institutions and focused on the development of a composite subaward agreement. The third phase, FDP III, expanded the partnership to include even more institutions and focused on the development of a national subaward agreement for all institutions participating in the partnership.


To develop and test new grants management programs at universities.

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is a national, inter-agency collaboration of 97 higher education, non-profit, and federal agencies. The FDP is a unique partnership that expedites the implementation of advanced technology innovations and best practices among electronic research administration (eRA) systems developments.


task force,

The FDP has presented to and interacted with over 80 foundations and charities and all the major eRA systems developers.

The task force continues to be active in assisting faculty applicants and reviewers, administrators and sponsor staff to use and embrace technology in order to employ best practices among eRA systems developments.

The FDP has been active in fulfilling the role of representing the national research community at national and international conferences, and in sharing the consensus opinions and best practices of the FDP membership.
to develop and test new grants management procedures at universities.

This task force is examining new award mechanisms to support basic research laboratories through a joint effort involving the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Department of Agriculture (USDA). The task force will provide recommendations on the legal, administrative, and financial implications of expanding the Expanded Authorities to all types of awardees. The goal is to support the growth of research 2002, the Task Force finalized a model subcontract for FDP institutions to use. The task force examined legal concepts that respond to the legal requirements of the contracts process; studies the similarities and differences between the legal concepts and practices at the two types of institutions; and designs, monitors, and evaluates more efficient procedures and administrative practices that can be extended to FDP institutions.

The Expanded Authorities have been incorporated for several years into OMB Circular A-110, but only as the Expanded Authorities for Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) institutions. In 2003, the task force conducted a series of meetings to expand the Expanded Authorities to other types of institutions. The task force recommended developing a model national subaward agreement that would allow for the expansion of the Expanded Authorities to other types of institutions. The model national subaward agreement would be used by uniform procedures within FDP IV; designs, monitors, and evaluates more efficient procedures and administrative practices for greater efficiencies throughout the entire application and grants management process. The task force has also examined the potential for extending the Expanded Authorities to other types of institutions.

The FDP and the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) are engaged in a joint effort to identify impediments to adoption across all projects and programs and to evaluate the feasibility of extending the Expanded Authorities to other types of institutions. The task force has been working to identify the key factors that contribute to the success of the Expanded Authorities and to develop recommendations for extending the Expanded Authorities to other types of institutions.

The task force has also been working with the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) to explore the potential for extending the Expanded Authorities to other types of institutions. The FDP is a voluntary association of federal agencies that works to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the federal government by sharing best practices and promoting collaboration among federal agencies. The FDP has been working on several initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the federal government, including the expansion of the Expanded Authorities to other types of institutions.
EVOLUTION OF THE FDP

1985—Pre-FDP
Hearings convened by the Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) on “Reducing Bureaucratic Accretion” in government and university sponsored research systems.

1986—FDP
Creation of the Florida Demonstration Project to develop and test new grants management procedures. Founding members are five major federal research and development agencies (DOE, NSF, NIH, ONR, USDA), the Florida State University System, and the University of Miami.

1988—FDP II
Expansion through a competitive process to include 45 institutions in 14 states and 10 federal agencies; renamed the Federal Demonstration Project, Phase II.

1996—FDP III
Designated the Federal Demonstration Partnership, Phase III, membership broadens to include an additional 20 institutions, one federal agency, and seven professional associations. Increased faculty participation is realized, bringing an exciting new dimension to the partnership.

2002—FDP IV
Federal Demonstration Partnership, Phase IV, target efforts are being undertaken to increase the participation of minority serving institutions and emerging research institutions. On the institutional side, the activities of the faculty representatives have become more focused and more closely interwoven into the fabric of the FDP. On the federal side, more federal auditors and costing officials are involved in task forces and committees working to reduce administrative burden.

For more information about the FDP, please visit our website at http://www.thefdp.org

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