

Basic Assistance Task Force Minutes
May 4, 2004
3:15pm-4:15pm

The meeting was opened by Tom Weber, Co-Chair of the Basic Task Force. Tom introduced Dr. Anthony Dempsey, NIH who was to provide an update on the NIH Evaluation of Modular Grants. Jim Randolph provided to the Task Force a brief background for Dr. Dempsey's remarks. Dr. Dempsey stated that evaluation process was continuing, but at a slower pace than first thought. He thought by the January 2005 meeting NIH would have the final results and would be happy to share them.

The members of the Task Force discussed whether there was value in forming a subgroup to develop a demonstration proposal, focusing on expanding the modular concept to other FDP Federal Agencies. Members also suggested that the current NIH threshold of \$250,000 should be increased to \$500,000. Susan Braunhut volunteered to lead a subgroup over the summer to put together a proposal addressing both the expansion of the modular concept and increasing the NIH Modular threshold. Others members that volunteered to assist were Jim Tracy, Barbara Pifer, Tom Weber, Bill Olbricht, Susan Ross and Michael Blanda.

Tom Weber then turned the discussion to the Documentation Allocation Standard or relatedness. Katalin Csiszar sent out an email to the members suggesting five areas of discussion with the intention of having a small group through a conference put forth ideas on how to encourage institutions to implement the relatedness concept. Unfortunately, Katalin did not get many responses, so there was no action taken. Beth Israel did discuss how they implemented the process at Columbia University and shared the documentation that faculty must file to have their project related. Another institution also indicated that they had implemented the relatedness concept and it seemed to be working well. The Task Force briefly discussed what we could propose to the FDP that would result in a wider usage of the relatedness, providing some accounting relief to the faculty. One suggestion was a presentation to the whole membership and another was to publish practices from our institutions and emphasis the potential benefit for the PI's.

The meeting ended at 4:15pm