

Draft Basic Assistance Task Force Minutes
January 12, 2004
3pm-4pm

The meeting was opened by Tom Weber, Co-Chair of the Basic Task Force. He introduced Jim Randolph to address the first item on the agenda, NIH Evaluation of Modular Grants. Jim stated he believed the NIH project on target and based on the NIH timeline, the survey should be initiated by May FDP meeting. He will contact Dr. Anthony Dempsey before then for an update.

Tom Weber asked whether any of the Task Force members had questions for Connie Atwell concerning the OSTP Business Models of Research Subcommittee.

Bob Dooling presented a draft of a new core assistance grant for faculty: The Federal Research Chair Grant (FRCG). As Bob mentioned in September, this grant was modeled after the Canadian Research Chair Grant and would provide the support faculty need to take the roller coaster out of the funding of labs. Bob acknowledged the other faculty members of his committee that provided comments and suggestions. Discussion followed with several comments from the federal program representatives who noted that the cost of this program could reduce the paylines for individual research grants. It was suggested that the current federal bridge funding grants may provide the same support as the FRCG. In addition, the concept of relatedness was raised as a grantee local authority that might also be useful to accomplish the goals of the proposed FRCG. The discussion concluded with the charge to continue to work on the FRCG for the next meeting.

The last discussion focused on the relatedness concept. Relatedness appeared in earlier Terms and Conditions of previous FDP Phases. It was dropped during Phase III, however in one of the revisions of A-21, language allows grantees to relate projects. However, it was not clear whether grantees were taking advantage of this process. In addition, faculty expressed concern that an agency would view relatedness as overlap and decide the individual faculty had sufficient funds and would award lower amounts in future grants.

The meeting ended with several next steps. Jim Randolph volunteered to gather the official OMB language on relatedness Bob Dooling and his committee will continue to work on the FRCG and Katalin Csiszar agreed to solicit a group to work on the relatedness concept.

Meeting ended 4:05pm