Federal Research Regulations

From a Systemwide Perspective

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NAS Committee on Federal Research Regulations – May 28, 2015

The University of California System

- 10 campuses
- ~19,700 faculty
  (61 Noble laureates)
- ~238,00 students
- $5.7 B in extramural awards

(FY2014)

2013 NSB PI Survey: Summary of UC Response

- Almost 1,300 faculty respondents
- Key issues raised as burdensome:
  - Proposal preparation
  - Increased administrative requirements, especially:
    - Reporting
    - Sub-recipient monitoring
    - Scientific integrity issues (COI, misconduct regs, privacy regs, etc.)
    - Protection of research subjects (human and animal)
  - Insufficient administrative support
  - Lack of harmonization across agencies (requirements and implementation)

Overarching Observations

- Some regulations serve an important role
- Disturbing sense that institutions/researchers are not to be trusted
- UG has provided some flexibility in HOW to comply.
  - But uncertain audit environment may drive conservative and burdensome implementation
- Reduced administrative support is a major factor
  - *25 years after imposition, it is time to revisit the 26% cap*
- Unintended consequence of shifting to IT systems
  - *Consider allowing delegation of some responsibility to appropriate proxies*

Inconsistency Creates Significant Burden

- Inconsistent requirements, e.g., COI regs, content/frequency of reports
- Inconsistent implementation, e.g., differing elements, thresholds, systems
- Possible solutions
  - Establish a body to act as liaison, with the authority to drive common requirements where possible
  - Nirvana: one common federal-wide reporting system
    - Prepopulated with available information

Proposal Preparation

- Increasing numbers of increasingly complex proposals are being prepared.
- Inconsistent requirements, formats, processes
- IT systems require PI's to do more of what used to be administrative tasks
- Possible solutions
  - Delay full details until later in the process
  - Nirvana: one common federal-wide proposal system
    - Prepopulated with available information

Thank you!