

FACT: Summary from May 2017 Meeting

Session Name: Faculty/Admin Partnerships for Successful Res Operations

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Working Group Activities/Outcomes/Progress to Date:

This was a new working group activity that arose out of faculty suggestions from the faculty outreach working group. It is envisioned that there will be sessions at future meetings building on this initial session.

Agenda/Discussion Points for this Meeting:

- Panel introductions: faculty/ administrator pairs from 3 institutions
- Institution Overviews: research operations organization charts and research characteristics
- Institution structures – How they work
- How things actually feel and really do work
- Audience questions/comments

Key Decisions Pending:

For future sessions, specific topics are being solicited to allow deeper discussion.

Participation:

The session was well-attended (~ 250) by a mix of admin and faculty representatives as well as federal reps, and there was a high degree of audience participation. The panelists' sense was that discussion could have continued long past the allotted time, so there is a high level of interest in continuing with future sessions.

Moving Forward Key Risks/Issues Identified:

To maintain the momentum from this first session, it is believed that selecting specific topics will be of most interest. Audience members were asked to suggest topics.

Meeting Summary:

Key themes/ideas from the session discussion include:

- 1) How does faculty get administrators to help them move grants through to submission? Comments/ideas: a) Innovation can be hindered without a team; b) Specialization of staff/identify players to allow faculty to succeed; c) Tell faculty who they should see to get specific assistance (guidance not obstruction); d) Move away from silo of individual websites; e) Lifecycle built into website
- 2) How do you get faculty involved in research administration enterprise (on campus and at FDP)? Ideas: a) Faculty governance (demonstrated interest in university admin structure), likely better than appointment, b) Allow committee to do something substantial and have an impact on campus c) For administrators: let faculty accomplish something important, d) form advisory groups, e) get to know faculty

Questions and input from audience included:

- How do we encourage faculty to participate? Administrators just formed a group for input from faculty; faculty needs to also talk to the rest of faculty; We have research forums every month through the sponsored programs office
- How do we manage various stages of approval; We partner with OSP to talk with administrators and improve pre and post grant office;
- How do we deal with IRBs?
- Efficient operation of laboratories is important; equipment resources need to be better managed and used; Research administration – faculty should work together to maximize shared resources
- How are you going to deal with risk management? This can be a big issue
- Who is responsible for faculty mentoring? Faculty in departments.
- Struggle with balance of being a machine and being personable as administrator (likely as a faculty as well)
- Institutions should find ways to solve problems and empower administrators to solve faculty issues