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June 2013 COGR Meeting Thursday Morning Presentation - Jeremy Leffler

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National Science Board Task Force on Administrative Burdens

Council on Government Relations Meeting

June 6, 2013





Speakers

Dr. Lisa Nichols, *National Science Board Office (NSBO) Liaison to the National Science Board (NSB) Task Force on Administrative Burdens; Science Policy Analyst, NSBO*

Mr. Jeremy Leffler, *Executive Secretary, Task Force on Administrative Burdens; Outreach Specialist, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support*





Role of the National Science Board

Statutory Basis

"The Board shall render to the President and the Congress reports on specific, individual policy matters within the authority of the Foundation (or otherwise as requested by the Congress or the President) related to science and engineering and education in science and engineering, as the Board, the President, or the Congress determines the need for such reports." --- 42 U.S.C. § 1863(j)(2)





Administrative Burden – Landscape

Research Universities and the Future of America: Ten Breakthrough Actions Vital to Our Nation's Prosperity and Security

Joint AAU/COGR publication, *Reforming Regulations of Research Universities*

Congressional hearings and GAO request to review regulations and reporting requirements imposed on research universities

Federal Demonstration Partnership Faculty Workload Surveys





Task Force on Administrative Burdens

Created December 2012

Charge

To examine the administrative burden imposed on federally supported researchers at U.S. colleges, universities, and non-profit institutions and offer recommendations where appropriate on relieving the administrative workload.

http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/committees/tskforce_ab.jsp





Task Force on Administrative Burdens

Dr. Arthur Bienenstock, *Chair*

Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier

Dr. Alan Leshner

Dr. Diane Souvaine

Dr. Carl Lineberger

Dr. Bonnie Bassler





Task Force Activities

- Inventory of current regulatory and reporting requirements
- Interpretation of regulations and institutional interpretation of agency guidelines.
- Efforts to harmonize reporting, streamline requirements and eliminate or modify ineffective regulation.
- Engagement/discussions with outside organizations.
- Discussions with FDP leadership
- Request for Information and roundtable discussions
- Comments submitted to the OMB





Activities: Exploration

Exploring current efforts to harmonize reporting, streamline requirements and eliminate or modify ineffective regulation:

Dr. Cliff Gabriel highlighted some of the items that were underway by the **Research Business Models (RBM) Working Group**, including a common federal researcher profile, time and effort reporting, and best practices for family friendly policies.

Ms. Jean Feldman briefed the Task Force on the background of the Research Performance Progress Report, an RBM initiative that standardizes agency reporting components for annual reports.





Activities: Engagement

Engagement/discussions with other organizations:

Dr. Christian Newcomer, *Executive Director of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International*

Dr. Marjorie Speers, *President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc.*





Activities: Engagement

Discussions with Federal Demonstration Partnership leadership and examination of survey comments

Dr. Susan Sedwick provided an overview of current FDP initiatives

Dr. Sandra Schneider presented the results of that FDP's 2012 Faculty Workload Survey including NSF-specific findings and comments.





FDP Faculty Workload Survey

NSF-Specific Responses:

How does NSF compare to other funding agencies in terms of reported administrative workload?

Which areas of administrative workload take away the most time from NSF-funded researchers?

What do investigators find most frustrating about administrative responsibilities specific to NSF-funded projects?





Activities: Request for Information

Themes:

- Financial management requirements
- Proposals
- Progress reporting
- IACUC/IRB
- Effort Reporting
- General administrative burden
- Administrative support
- Direct charging
- Overlapping or redundant agency requests





Outcomes and Timeline

- Detailed comments specific to NSF will be made available to the Director
- Opportunities to promote or advance current or pending work will be strongly considered.
- A public report of findings will be issued at the end of 2013 or early 2014
- Delivery to the Executive Office of the President and Congress and conversations with lawmakers.
- Discussions with other Federal agencies and offices





Activities: Roundtable Discussions

Roundtable discussions were held at Stanford University, Tufts University, and the Georgia Institute of Technology

Additional discussions have been held at the NSF Grants Conference, the FDP Faculty Lunch Forum in May, and this morning with members of COGR





Roundtable Discussions: Themes

- Funding Levels
- IRBs/IACUCs
- Effort Reporting
- Reporting
- Biosketches





RFI Discussion: Sources of Administrative Burden

- What specific requirements associated with Federally-funded grants require you to do the greatest amount of administrative work?
- What steps could be taken to reduce the administrative workload?





RFI Discussion: IRBs and IACUCs

- What IRB/IACUC requirements create the most work?
- If you are a PI, do you have administrative help?
- Do your university's practices make compliance easier or harder?
- What steps might reduce IRB/IACUC burden?





RFI Discussion: Proposal Preparation

Investigators responding to the FDP 2012 Faculty Workload Survey indicated that 15 percent of their research time associated with a Federal award is devoted to proposal preparation.

- Are there tasks associated with proposal preparation that unnecessarily increase your administrative workload?
- What would you recommend agencies do to reduce the level of administrative work?





RFI Discussion: Agency Specific Requirements

- Are there overlapping or redundant agency requests that add to your administrative workload?
- Are there NSF-specific requirements that create significant administrative work for you?
- What steps would you recommend that agencies/NSF take to streamline or reduce these requirements?





RFI Responses Requested by June 7th

June 2013

Request for Information (RFI): Reducing Investigator's Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research

Over the past decade two Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Faculty Workload Surveys (2005 and 2012) indicate that administrative burdens associated with Federal research funding are consuming roughly 42% of an awardee's available research time. To help address these issues, the National Science Board (Board) recently created a Task Force on Administrative Burdens. The Task Force is seeking recommendations from principal investigators for reducing the administrative workload associated with their Federal awards. Responses to this RFI will be considered as the Board develops recommendations to ensure investigators' administrative workload is at an appropriate level.

National Science Foundation
NSF-13-001
Request for Information (RFI) Reducing Investigator's
Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research
Key Dates
Release Date: March 20, 2013
Response Due: May 24, 2013
Issued by
National Science Foundation (NSF)
Purpose
The NSF offers principal investigators with Federal research funding the opportunity to share their input on administrative burdens associated with their Federal research funding and to offer recommendations for reducing the administrative burdens of their research. The National Science Board recently created a Task Force on Administrative Burdens. The Task Force is seeking recommendations from principal investigators for reducing the administrative workload associated with their Federal awards. Responses to this RFI will be considered as the Board develops recommendations to ensure investigators' administrative workload is at an appropriate level.
Background
Over the past decade two Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Faculty Workload Surveys (2005 and 2012) indicate that administrative burdens associated with Federal research funding are consuming roughly 42% of an awardee's available research time. To help address these issues, the National Science Board recently created a Task Force on Administrative Burdens. The Task Force is seeking recommendations from principal investigators for reducing the administrative workload associated with their Federal awards. Responses to this RFI will be considered as the Board develops recommendations to ensure investigators' administrative workload is at an appropriate level.
Request for Information
The Task Force is seeking input from principal investigators on administrative burdens associated with their Federal research funding and to offer recommendations for reducing the administrative burdens of their research.

Request for Information: Reducing Investigator's Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research (Full RFI; PDF)

There are two ways to respond: (1) You can send your response in an email or as an attached text document (e.g., Word document) to Administrative-Reform@nsf.gov OR (2) you can enter your responses directly into the RFI PDF using the following instructions:

1. Download and save the fillable [RFI](#) to your computer.
2. Enter your responses directly into the PDF and save your completed PDF to your computer.
3. Send the completed PDF as an attachment to Administrative-Reform@nsf.gov

Responses to this RFI will be accepted through May 24, 2013. Email addresses will be anonymized and responses kept confidential consistent with our obligations to comply with a judicial or administrative subpoena, or a FOIA request pursuant to 5 USC § 552. Please note that any personal information contained within the body of the email/response (i.e. signature lines) will be retained if not deleted by the sender. Any questions or inquiries should be sent to: Administrative-Reform-Inquiries@nsf.gov.

For more information about the **Taskforce on Administrative Burdens**, please visit the [Taskforce home page](#).

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www.nsf.gov/nsb/committees/ab/tskforce_ab_rfi.jsp

