

COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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October 1, 2010

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WASHINGTON MARRIOTT HOTEL

October 28 and 29, 2010

Planning information for the upcoming meeting of the Council on Governmental Relations was sent to the COGR Listserve in July 2010. Those planning to attend should make hotel reservations at the Washington Marriott Hotel at 1221 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and should send registration notices along with registration fees to the COGR office. Those planning to attend will want to make their travel and hotel reservations. There is a block of rooms reserved for COGR participants. After this block fills, reservations will be accepted only on a space and rate available basis.

The hotel has established October 12, 2010 as the cut-off date for receipt of reservations. There may still be rooms available at the hotel, but these would not have the COGR rate. For reservations already made, changes should be made by telephone to the hotel (202-872-1500) and by FAX to the COGR office (202-289-6698). Cancellations must be received in writing, via fax or mail, no later than Thursday, October 21, 2010 to receive a refund of the registration fee.

Thursday, October 28, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. – **Thursday Morning Sessions** – There will be two concurrent sessions:
 - *I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.
Rudyard Kipling, "The Elephant Child" (1902)*

Reporting to the Federal Government - The recent addition of subaward reporting under the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA/Transparency Act) to the stack of Federal reporting requirements feels like just one more task to be assigned to someone within your organization. We will outline the Transparency Act requirements and other recent report requirements, including the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIS) Proceedings Report. We will use these examples as a catalyst for a discussion of the challenge of reporting, particularly in those cases where information is held by multiple offices/units.

While not specifically focused on the burden of reporting, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) included findings in its recent report on *University Research: Policies for the Reimbursement of Indirect Costs Need to be Updated* (GAO-10-937) that further advance the discussion on the challenge of reporting. The GAO report stated that administrative costs are driven, in large part, by the need to add: new staff to, for instance, report data on grants and for subrecipient monitoring; new compliance offices; new information technology systems to collect and organize information; new training efforts for staff on new systems and compliance efforts, and, finally, new processes for improving security and safety. Finally, this session will also include an examination of a couple of different institutional models used for organizing reporting and effective practices that may help to mitigate the burden of the endless report.

- **Revisiting MTAs: Models for Streamlining** - Material transfer agreements (MTAs) are arguably one of the most difficult kinds of agreements our institutions negotiate. Understandably, the challenges are most acute when the material is being provided by a company, but transfers between research institutions seem to have become increasingly problematic as well. A panel will discuss a number of currently available approaches that were designed specifically to ease the process of sharing materials among government and non-profit researchers. We will also explore some relatively new approaches, including a proposed “transfer letter” that is being developed by a COGR/NIH working group, and the possibility of fully electronic implementation of such an approach. Panelists will include representatives from NIH, HHMI, and COGR institutions.
- 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. – **Buffet Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – **Guest Speaker** - Dr. Subra Suresh, Director of the National Science Foundation (invited). Dr. Suresh, former Dean of the School of Engineering and Vannevar Bush Professor of Engineering at MIT, was recently unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the Director of the National Science Foundation for a six-year term.
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. - **Break**
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – **A Closer Look at the GAO Report on Indirect Costs** - The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released its study on Indirect Costs in September. The report, *University Research: Policies for the Reimbursement of Indirect Costs Need to be Updated* (GAO-10-937), looked at a number of topics specific to the F&A reimbursement process and provided recommendations targeted to the Director of OMB and the Secretary of Defense. Recommendations to the Director of OMB included: “identify methods to ensure that the rate-setting process is applied consistently”, “clarify the roles and responsibilities of federal agencies in ... reevaluating the eligibility of schools to receive the utility cost adjustment”, and “reexamine and determine [if the] 26 percent [limitation] achieves the appropriate level of cost control and achieves the government’s objective that the federal government bears its fair share of total costs”.

Representatives from the GAO team that completed the study will lead this session. The presenters from the GAO are still to be determined, though at this date, Penny Berrier Augustine, Janet McKelvey, and John Needham most likely will represent the GAO for this session.

- 3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. – **Break**
- 3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – **Changes in Grants Policies at NSF and NIH** - The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will have issued new grants policies documents before the COGR meeting. Federal policy wonks, Jean Feldman, head of the NSF Policy Office and Sally Rockey, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research and Director of the Office of Extramural Research and Joe Ellis, Director of the NIH Office for Extramural Research Administration, and their Federal colleagues, will describe the changes to the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPP), issued October 1, 2010 and the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS), respectively. The NSF revisions will address new requirements including data management planning and describe policy provisions including cost sharing. NIH will incorporate changes in policies and procedures established by notice since the last major revision of the GPS in 2003. Both documents will be available before the meeting and we encourage attendees to review the PAPP and GPS to craft questions and request clarifications from our Federal colleagues.

Dr. Rockey will offer any updates she can on the Public Health Service's efforts to finalize the revisions to the PHS/NIH financial conflicts of interest policy and NIH's management of stem cell research in light of the September 29, 2010 U.S. Court of Appeals extension of the stay of the preliminary injunction which briefly halted federal funding of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research. This extension allows NIH to continue funding the research for now.

- 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. - **Reception**
- 6:30 p.m. - **Dinner**

Friday, October 29, 2010

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. - **Buffet Breakfast**
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - **Association Update**
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. - **COGR Committee Reports**

Contract and Intellectual Property Costing Policies Research Compliance and Administration

- 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - **Break**
- 10:30 – Noon – **Continue Committee Reports** – Discussion of questions submitted by the membership (**Members are encouraged to submit advance questions and issues for Friday morning discussion to ataylor@cogr.edu**)
- 12:00 Noon – **Adjournment**

Attendance at COGR meetings is limited to employees of member universities, their governing boards and research foundations, affiliated hospitals and affiliated research institutes.