

University Efforts to Reduce Administrative Burden

June 2016 COGR Meeting
Washington Marriott Hotel
Washington, DC

COGR

About This Session



Panelists will provide an update on COGR efforts to develop a checklist with strategies for assisting research institutions' efforts to reduce the administrative workload for investigators and administrative staff while maintaining necessary regulatory compliance.

Panelists



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Introduction

Increasing regulatory and administrative burden on the research enterprise and potential approaches for federal agencies and universities to reduce the burden have been raised in a number of recent reports including:

- ▶ Research Universities and the Future of America: Ten Breakthrough Actions Vital to our Nation's Prosperity and Security (NRC, 2012)
- ▶ Faculty Workload Survey Research Report (FDP, 2012)
- ▶ Reducing Investigators' Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research (NSB, 2014)
- ▶ Sustaining Discovery in Biological and Medical Sciences (FASEB, 2015)
- ▶ Optimizing the Nation's Investment in Academic Research- A New Regulatory Framework for the 21st Century, Part I (NRC, 2015)

Recommendations to Agencies



The National Research Council Reports have specific recommendations for:

- ▶ Agencies to streamline and unify their regulatory requirements.
- ▶ Congress to establish mechanisms to reduce regulatory burden.

COGR has been, and continues to be, active in this process. A number of COGR recommendations are referenced in the NRC report.

Recommendations to Institutions



The National Academies report, *Optimizing the Nation's Investment in Academic Research*, recommended that research institutions:

- Conduct a review of institutional policies developed to comply with federal regulation of research to determine whether the institution has created additional and unnecessary administrative burden.
- Revise institutional policies that go beyond those necessary and sufficient to comply with federal, state, and local requirements.

COGR Guidance for Institutions



- ▶ COGR has reviewed the Federal Demonstration Partnership Faculty burden Survey to identify major areas of concern to faculty.
- ▶ With input from COGR Committee members we have compiled a partial list of actions that have been taken by member institutions to reduce administrative burden.



COGR Administrative Burden List

- ▶ Animal Research/IACUC
- ▶ Human Subjects Research/IRB
- ▶ Contract-Related Requirements
- ▶ Subcontracts
- ▶ Technology Transfer
- ▶ International Research
- ▶ General



COGR Administrative Burden List

- ▶ **Administrative Support**
- ▶ **Conflict of Interest**
- ▶ **Electronic Systems/Forms**
- ▶ **Proposal or Report Preparation**
- ▶ **Personnel Management**
- ▶ **Financial Management**
- ▶ **Laboratory Safety**
- ▶ **Training**

Questions

- ▶ Are there any major categories missing?
- ▶ What is the best mechanism to solicit additional input on efforts underway at member institutions?
- ▶ How do we reach out to respective functional units for additional input?
- ▶ Should the list be updated on an annual or biennial basis?
- ▶ How can we help members with implementation?
- ▶ of changes?