



Update on the Research Business Models (RBM) Working Group

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Agenda

- Opening and Context
- Section 201 of the AICA
- Reducing Federal Administrative and Regulatory Burdens on Research: The RBM Report to Congress
- RBM Priorities
- Engagement with COGR

Opening and Context

- Background of the RBM Working Group
- AICA Direction to the Working Group
- Success is dependent upon the engagement and involvement of all parties

American Innovation and Competitiveness Act

Section 201

(d) Interagency Working Group on Research Regulation

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall establish an interagency working group for the purpose of reducing administrative burdens on federally funded researchers while protecting the public interest through the transparency of and accountability for federally funded activities.

(e) Responsibilities

(1) In general.--The Working Group shall-- (A) regularly review relevant, administration-related regulations imposed on federally funded researchers; (B) recommend those regulations or processes that may be eliminated, streamlined, or otherwise improved for the purpose described in subsection (d); (C) recommend ways to minimize the regulatory burden on United States institutions of higher education performing federally funded research while maintaining accountability for federal funding; and (D) recommend ways to identify and update specific regulations to refocus on performance-based goals rather than on process while achieving the outcome described in subparagraph (C).

American Innovation and Competitiveness Act

Section 201 (Cont'd)

- (2) Grant review.-- (A) In general.--The Working Group shall--
 - (i) conduct a comprehensive review of Federal science agency grant proposal documents; and
 - (ii) develop, to the extent practicable, a simplified, uniform grant format to be used by all Federal science agencies. (B) Considerations.--In developing the uniform grant format, the Working Group shall consider whether to implement--
 - (i) procedures for preliminary project proposals in advance of peer-review selection;
 - (ii) increased use of "Just-In-Time" procedures for documentation that does not bear directly on the scientific merit of a proposal;
 - (iii) simplified initial budget proposals in advance of peer review selection; and
 - (iv) detailed budget proposals for applicants that peer review selection identifies as likely to be funded.

American Innovation and Competitiveness Act

Section 201 (Cont'd)

(3) Centralized researcher profile database.-- (A) Establishment.--The Working Group shall establish, to the extent practicable, a secure, centralized database for investigator biosketches, curriculum vitae, licenses, lists of publications, and other documents considered relevant by the Working Group. (B) Considerations.--In establishing the centralized profile database under subparagraph (A), the Working Group shall consider incorporating existing investigator databases. (C) Grant proposals.--To the extent practicable, all grant proposals shall utilize the centralized investigator profile database established under subparagraph (A). (D) Requirements.--Each investigator shall-- (i) be responsible for ensuring the investigator's profile is current and accurate; and (ii) be assigned a unique identifier linked to the database and accessible to all Federal funding agencies.

American Innovation and Competitiveness Act

Section 201 (Cont'd)

- (4) Centralized assurances repository.--The Working Group shall-- (A) establish a central repository for all of the assurances required for Federal research grants; and (B) provide guidance to institutions of higher education and Federal science agencies on the use of the centralized assurances repository.
- (5) Comprehensive review.-- (A) In general.--The Working Group shall--
 - (i) conduct a comprehensive review of the mandated progress reports for federally funded research; and
 - (ii) develop a strategy to simplify investigator progress reports. (B) Considerations.--In developing the strategy, the Working Group shall consider limiting progress reports to performance outcomes.

American Innovation and Competitiveness Act

Section 201 (Cont'd)

(f) Consultation.--In carrying out its responsibilities under subsection (e)(1), the Working Group shall consult with academic researchers outside the Federal Government, including-- (1) federally funded researchers; (2) non-federally funded researchers; (3) institutions of higher education and their representative associations; (4) scientific and engineering disciplinary societies and associations; (5) nonprofit research institutions; (6) industry, including small businesses; (7) federally funded research and development centers; and (8) members of the public with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

American Innovation and Competitiveness Act

Section 201 (Cont'd)

(g) Reports.--Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Working Group shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on its responsibilities under this section, including a discussion of the considerations described in paragraphs (2)(B) Uniform Grant Format, (3)(B) Centralized Profile Database, and (5)(B) Limiting Progress Reports to Performance Outcomes of subsection (e) and recommendations made under subsection (e)(1).

Reducing Federal Administrative and Regulatory Burdens on Research: The RBM Report to Congress

- Introduction
- Progress Report on the Four AICA-Assigned Tasks
 - Establishment of a centralized assurances repository
 - Establishment of a centralized reviewer database
 - Development of a Simplified and Uniform Grant Application Format and Associated Processes to Streamline Grant Application and Review
 - Simplification of Mandatory Progress Reports for Agency Review, with an Emphasis on Performance Outcomes
- Further Recommendations to Minimize Regulatory Burden While Emphasizing Performance

RBM Priorities

- Re-energize RBM activities and continue to address previous report language from various sources (NSB, GAO, OIG, NASEM, OMB, OSTP, etc.) that requests additional action or review from RBM
- Focus on new activities that RBM receives and reprioritize competing priorities, as needed
- Highlight low-hanging fruit to where we can continue to reduce administrative burden across the Federal research enterprise
- Continue to update COGR and other partners, at a high level, regarding ongoing and upcoming activities

COGR Engagement

- Discuss best how to best engage COGR on administrative burden work and other activities
- Set expectations for activity priorities and outcomes
- Open discussion