Symposium for Research Administrators

University of Wisconsin-Madison
September 13th, 2017
FEDERAL RELATIONS

Working to Advance UW-Madison’s Interests in Washington, D.C.

• Serve as UW-Madison’s liaison between campus and Congress, the Administration, and Federal Agencies.

• Connect vital federal funding programs to real stories of successful research and discoveries happening on our campus, and advocate for the continued support of such programs.

• Discover new opportunities to advance our priorities and move UW-Madison forward.

• Coordinate and engage with Higher Education and Research Associations to advocate for initiatives and priorities that are import to the University.

• Develop and cultivate strong relationships with Alumni and other stakeholders in Washington, D.C.
Federal Advocacy Efforts

• Working the halls of Congress to highlight how drastic cuts will cripple research enterprise and severely impact student access
• Chancellor meetings with WI Congressional Delegation including Big Ten meeting with Speaker Ryan
• Collaborating with higher education associations to advocate for UW-Madison (e.g. AAU, APLU, ACE)
• Alumni advocacy
  • D.C. Lobby Day during BIG Ten Basketball Tournament
  • Action alert sent to 30K Badgers across the country
• Partnered with Madison Chamber on Meet Madison Day in D.C.
• Big Ten faculty research showcase
• Many more to come...
Federal Agencies
The Federal Legislative Process
Timeline of Federal Budget Process

• February – President submits detailed budget to Congress

• April 15 – Congress passes budget resolution

• May – September – House and Senate Appropriations Committees pass individual spending bills

• September 30 – Fiscal year ends

• October 1 – New fiscal year begins
Administration’s FY 18 Request and Congressional Funding

Select Science & Tech Agencies and Programs in the FY 2018 Budget

Estimated percentage change from FY 2017 enacted levels, nominal dollars

*Includes renewables and efficiency, nuclear, fossil, grid research, ARPA-E. Based on the FY 2018 budget request, the FY 2017 omnibus, and current appropriations. | AAAS
Congress’ To-Do List

- Hurricanes Harvey and Irma relief
- Health care repeal
- FY 2018 budget resolution
- FY 2018 spending bills
- Debt limit
- Federal Aviation Administration authorization
- Children’s Health Insurance Program authorization
- National Flood Insurance Program authorization
- Stabilize individual insurance markets
- DACA
- Tax reform
2018 Senate Election Cycle

2018 Crystal Ball Senate race ratings

Updated: Aug. 23, 2017

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Notes: Angu King (D-MS) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) caucus with the Democrats in the Senate.

*Alabama is holding a special election in 2017.
Thank You

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Federal Demonstration Partnership
Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)

• Organization of federal grant-making agencies and universities
• FDP’s mission to work collaboratively to streamline the administration of federally sponsored research

• Website: theFDP.org
FDP: What is it?

• Started back in 1988
• UW – Madison has been a key member since inception
• 155 Research Institutions and Emerging Research Institutions
• 10 of the largest Federal grant-making agencies
FDP: What is it?

- Opportunity for UW – Madison to work directly with the policy makers at the largest federal grant-making agencies

- Federal agencies can get direct feedback from faculty and administrators

- Often hear about policy changes before they take effect and can provide feedback
FDP: What is it?

- Steering Committees have a university and a federal co-chair

- Kim Moreland is co-chair of the Finance Committee

- Mark Sweet is co-chair of the Electronic Research Administration Committee
FDP Streamlining Examples

- Research Terms and Conditions
- Feedback to Grants.gov
- Faculty Workload Survey
- Sub-Award Agreement Templates
FDP Streamlining Examples

• FDP Expanded Clearinghouse
• UG has additional guidance on subrecipient monitoring
• Expanded Clearinghouse is a repository of all the subrecipient data we ask from our subs
• Participants do not need to ask each other for the info it is in the Clearinghouse
• Estimates put time savings over 1 hour on each sub-award
• Jennifer Rodis in RSP is a leader on initial phases
• Mike Geier in RSP is a participant in API/Web Services phase
CUI: Controlled Unclassified Information
Data Breaches

• 2016
• Over 4000 data breaches
• Exposing over 4.1 BILLION records

• Keeping data and systems secure is mission critical and everybody’s responsibility
Controlled Unclassified Information

• An open and uniform program to manage all unclassified information within the executive branch that requires safeguarding and dissemination controls as required by law, regulation, and Government-wide policy
Controlled Unclassified Information

- Establishes policy for designating, handling, and decontrolling information that qualifies as CUI
- Goal to standardize how CUI is managed
CIA

- **Confidentiality**
  - Data/system is protected

- **Integrity**
  - Data/system is not altered

- **Availability**
  - Data/systems can be accessed for business
Protecting CUI: summary

- **CUI Basic:** Confidentiality Moderate

- **CUI Specified:** may require Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability to be Moderate (or higher)

- Controls are the BASELINE
CUI/FISMA: How can you help?

- Work closely with your PIs
- Listen if they talk about “data sets”
- Ask questions
  - Where is the data coming from?
  - Do we need an AGREEMENT for the data
  - Talk with RSP
  - Talk with DoIT Office of Cybersecurity
DoIT Office of Cybersecurity

- Responsible office for campus cybersecurity
- Expert staff in assessing risk and helping with mitigation plans
DoIT Office of Cybersecurity

• Web resources:

https://it.wisc.edu/about/office-of-the-cio/cybersecurity/controlled-unclassified-information/
Questions?
Legislation & Regulation
National Defense Authorization Act
21st Century Cures Act
American Innovation and Competitiveness Act

Uniform Guidance

NDAA
Cures
Competes
Help from Unlikely Sources

• Administrative Burden
  • FDP Faculty Burden Survey 2005
  • FDP Faculty Burden Survey 2012
  • Plans for 2018

• Faculty respondents reported: 42% of their research time on federally-funded projects was spent on administrative requirements
Concern about Administrative Burden

- National Science Board 2014 report: Reducing Investigators’ Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research
Congress Hears and Acts - Sometimes

- 21st Century Cures Act
- American Innovation and Competitiveness Act
- National Defense Authorization Act

  - Address different audiences
  - Research Policy Board (Cures)
  - Subrecipient monitoring (Cures)
  - Procurement – MPT (Competes and NDAA)
  - Financial reporting improvements (Cures)
  - Effort Reporting (Cures)
Potential Regulatory Reforms
Common Systems

• Develop a common federal portal for
  • grants submission,
  • invoicing/cash draw downs, and
  • final reporting (e.g., progress, financial, equipment)

• Utilize a single set of rules, forms and due dates (potentially using NSF policy and guidelines as a model).
As recommended by the National Science Board, agencies should modify proposal requirements to include only those essential to evaluating the merit of the proposed research and making a funding determination. This can be achieved through:

- Preliminary proposals
- Broadening just-in-time submission
- Simplifying budget requirements
Two More Ideas

• Eliminate the requirement to resubmit the Federal Financial Report (FFR) for small dollar credits (e.g. <$100 or $500 or possibly 0.1% of award amount). Allow universities to instead accumulate all ending and post award debits and credits to federal awards over a period of time (e.g., quarterly or annually) and refund net credits directly to the U.S. Treasury, or reimburse the U.S. Government through some other mechanism, which could save hundreds of dollars or more per award.

• Federal agencies should adopt performance-based measures for grants. If a progress or final report is accepted by the agency, then the personnel effort devoted to the project was sufficient and appropriate to achieve its objectives and time and effort reporting and salary certification unnecessary.
Engage the Research Community

- Agencies should develop pilot projects through the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) for major new regulations and policies to assess their effectiveness prior to implementation and to ensure they are not adding unnecessary burdens.
Questions?

Comments?