Federal Demonstration Partnership FACULTY NOTES – Sept 2016 Meeting
Material especially relevant for TTU in red

Federal Agency Updates

Highlights of agency reports are briefly summarized below, with links to presentations on the FDP Meetings website.

NSF and NIH announced that both the Research Terms and Conditions (RTCs) and the final Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) have cleared the Subcommittee on Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) and are currently working their way through the Committee on Science (COS) approval process.

NSF New:

1. A new Proposal Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) effective 1/30/2017, has significant changes (see NSF website, https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/).
2. Project Summary - effective September 26, 2016, the Project Summary text boxes will be checked for one page in length; must contain the three required sections: Overview, Statement on Intellectual Merit and Statement on Broader Impacts, and previous character count will be discontinued.
3. NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum – Proposed System Modernization (PSM) webinar event will be September 28, 2016, at 1:00 PM EST. Additional information and registration at: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/era_forum.jsp
4. The Nov. 14-15 Grants Conference in Pittsburgh is sold out, but NSF intends to webcast the plenary sessions of this conference. To receive notification about registration send an e-mail to grants_conference@nsf.gov. http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_174489.pdf

NIH New:

1. The revised Grants Policy Statement will be announced on October 31, 2016, but be applicable to all NIH grants and cooperative agreements with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 2016.
2. The NRSA post-doc stipends range will increase to $47,476 - $57,504, to address the new Fair Labor Standards Act. Others with post-docs on RO1s, for example, must re-budget.
3. NIH recently announced several new initiatives to improve stewardship of clinical trials, which will take effect January 1, 2017.
4. NIH issued a new policy to eliminate most appendix materials that are submitted with applications. The new policy is effective for application due dates on or after January 25, 2017.
5. Guide Notice NOT-OD-16-130 simplifies and consolidates the current NIH policy concerning post-submission materials. http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_174488.pdf

EPA:

1. With the implementation of the Uniform Grants Guidance (UGG), there are distinct areas that require prior approval. 2 CFR 200.308, *Revision of budget and project plans*, outlines the instances where prior approval from the agency is required. Current Prior Approval matrix for R&R awards for EPA will be updated during the larger Prior Approval process.
2. EPA goals include: Maintaining Effective Grants Management Policies, Streamlining Grants Management Procedures, Fostering a High-Quality Grants Management Workforce, Ensuring Transparency and Accountability, and Evaluating Grants Management Performance. http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_174490.pdf

NASA:

1) NSPIRES registration required of all PIs and co-PIs.
2) New guidance coming for FLSA. http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_174491.pdf

AFOSR:

1) Working on reporting requirements and submissions guidelines – resolving inconsistencies;
2) Need publicly releasable project summary.
3) International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) – limit $15K, no Indirect Costs. http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_174487.pdf

USDA/NIFA: Undergoing grants modernization effort with pilot in Oct/Nov 2017. Terms and conditions being announced for industrial hemp program.
http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_174494.pdf

Committee and Task Force - Sessions

Open Government – **DATA Act:** Chris Zelesnik and Hudson Hollister gave presentations on the need for and progress on responses to the new DATA act. The basic idea is to transition away from document-based reporting to searchable database fields in all aspects of government funding (analogous to "TurboTax" filing). All agencies must report using common standards for spending data by May 2017. **There is no mandate yet for grantees and PIs, but multiple test models are in pilot phase.**
http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_174496.pdf

Compliance: NIH Single IRB **(did not attend; colleagues reported content similar to the AAMC webinar posted at https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/research/462768/nihpolicyonsingleirb.html)**

Faculty Lunch Forum – Kelly Shaver & ERI Committee presented data suggesting that faculty at Emerging Research Institutions (ERIs) are less-often involved in the grant review process, and working groups at NIH and NSF often involve only Research 1 schools.

Consequently, review criteria do not consider differences between ERIs and R1 schools in teaching load, productivity, etc. FDP may develop a pilot project to: 1) gather data and create lists of potential ERI candidates for reviews and panels that FDP can send to federal partners; and 2) provide outreach and training for faculty from ERIs for training in ORCID, SciENCV, eRA, etc.

Faculty Burden Survey Working Group: Sandra Schneider discussed restructuring the design of survey to include additional questions and different types of data to be collected (e.g., % time vs. hrs/wk, or both). Faculty raised concerns about issues such as effort related to getting grants (not funded) vs. administering awards (time away from funded research). Other questions focused on who to include (e.g. only people with current funding, or funding in past 3 years) and how to obtain a snapshot of burden across the grant and award cycle.

NSF – Proposal Submission Modernization: NSF proposes large-scale changes to FastLane within the Grants.gov platform, scheduled for Oct. 2017 (after the move from Arlington to Alexandria). Changes include: 1) delegation of access to authorized users other than the PI (*e.g.,* co-PIs, ORS personnel, support staff); 2) budget wizard vs. spreadsheet upload; 3) itemization of budget justification. Webinar event will be September 28, 2016, at 1:00 PM EST. Additional information and registration at: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/era_forum.jsp

NSF – IPA Program: NSF is soliciting faculty input on the Intragovernmental Personnel Act mechanism for supporting rotators (currently 12% of NSF workforce and 28% of scientific staff), wherein a grant is given to the home institution to cover salary and benefits. NSF is considering some changes to the cost-share component (currently 15%, but flexible), and terms of per diem support.

Plenary – OSTP Science and Technology Agenda: Kei Koizumi discussed challenges addressed by the Obama administration that were pertinent to the FDP and the scientific community, including: economic recovery, biomedicine and health care, energy issues, climate change, competing uses of land and water, ocean health, and national/homeland security (especially cybersecurity). A review of the administration's progress in these areas with regard to new policy initiatives and programs, persistent obstacles and future opportunities was presented.

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Plenary – NAS Committee on Federal Research Regulations and Reporting Requirements: Harriet Rabb (Chair) discussed the recently released report, which reviews: 1) growth in number of regulations that impact faculty and grantee institutions through the process from proposal through final report, and 2) suggestions for improvement, including a National research Policy Review Board to ensure that regulations and procedures are harmonized across agencies.

Other session topics (sessions are conducted in parallel, so it's impossible to attend all sessions)

- *ERI*
- *Expanded Clearinghouse:* Pilot
- *Faculty Research Pipeline Working Group*
- *Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report on Federal Research Grants*
- *Subawards*
- *Uniform Guidance*

Other Items of Interest

Slides - presentations are posted on the FDP website: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA_174472

The orientation material presented for new attendees provides an excellent background of FDP and its accomplishments http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga_152093.pdf