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Demonstrations

The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is an association of federal US agencies, academic research institutions with administrative, faculty and technical representation, and research policy organizations that work to streamline the administration of federally sponsored research. FDP members of all sectors cooperate in identifying, testing, and implementing new, more effective ways of managing federal research grants with the goal of improving the productivity of research without compromising its stewardship. The overarching goal of the FDP is to reduce the administrative burdens for the faculty who are carrying out federally funded research so that they can spend more time doing research.

Executive Committee: Provides the overall direction of the FDP and reports to the Membership at Large.

Operational Standing Committees: Provide ongoing direction of FDP operations and report to the Executive Committee.

Finance

Reviews annual budgets and reports to the Executive Committee on the status of funding; Recommends the member institution dues amount on an annual basis; Sets financial related policies and procedures; Monitors the payment of member institution dues; Monitors the investment policies and practices for funds invested through the FDP Foundation; Reviews annually the performance of the Executive Director, provides feedback on performance to the Executive Committee and Executive Director, and makes financial recommendations relative to the contract with the Executive Director; The institutional co-chair serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the FDP Foundation.

Membership

Responsible for membership issues; Monitoring attendance and participation; Assuring vendor participation complies with FDP policy; Receiving, evaluating and recommending requests for additional affiliate membership; Encouraging increased federal participation and membership; Facilitating the transition process for new FDP phases; Updating and overseeing Executive Committee nomination/election procedures; Supporting Emerging Research Institution (ERI) full participation in FDP activities. Manage the annual report process by providing content to Executive Director for distribution to members; analyze and summarize report data responses.

Communications

Approves all FDP publications in either print form or electronic; Provides direction for the FDP web site; Responsible for oversight of the FDP Biannual Report; Compiles and disseminates meeting summaries; Develops outreach materials; Develops required reports for the FDP.

Programmatic Standing Committees: Provide direction for FDP focus areas and report to the Executive Committee

Faculty

Serves as the forum for faculty representatives to discuss and develop faculty input on all FDP activities and FDP administration. The meetings are used to share information from other operational and functional standing committees to faculty representatives, and for faculty to incubate and develop new activity proposals. As needed, the Faculty Standing Committee develops surveys of faculty at member institutions to garner necessary information to direct proposed activities.

Electronic Research Administration (eRA)

Identifies opportunities to reduce faculty and administrative burden in areas of electronic processes and communications with federal Agencies. Informs the federal e-grants activities by providing institutional input and support to the development of improved electronic interfaces between the government and the research community. Provides IT consultation for demonstrations, pilots, and committees as requested.

Research Administration

Identifies opportunities to make the administrative requirements imposed by federal sponsors simpler and less costly without compromising accountability. This includes contracting, proposal, award and subaward requirements and processes and general research administration areas not targeted for coverage by other standing committees.

Financial/Audit/Costing Policy

Focuses on initiatives to reduce administrative burden in the areas of financial, audit, and costing policies. This subcommittee explores opportunities to simplify financial, audit, or cost policies without compromising accountability.

Research Compliance

Reviews existing and new requirements imposed by federal regulations related to, but not limited to, the human research participant protections, animal use and care, conflicts of interest (individual and institutional), objectivity in research, and export controls. The emphasis is focused on identification and harmonization of requirements across federal agencies, reduction of redundancies and unnecessary burdens and identification of good practices for implementing the requirements.

Definitions

Standing Committees: Permanent /long-term committees that include both operational and programmatic committees. Standing committees are established and dissolved by the Executive Committee. It is expected that Standing Committees are directed by a federal and institutional co-chair, and as appropriate, a faculty co-chair.

Subcommittee: A permanent group of a standing committee that is dedicated to a specific topic area within the standing committee. Subcommittees need the approval of the Executive Committee to be formed and dissolved.

Working Group: A temporary group of a standing committee or subcommittee created to investigate a potential demonstration, respond to new federal policy, design and develop new tools for research administration. A working group can be formed by a standing committee or subcommittee without the approval of the Executive Committee and are to have stated termination criteria, either a date or accomplishment. Subcommittees must work closely with standing committee when working groups are established.

A **Pilot Project** is an activity of the FDP designed to explore the feasibility of a Demonstration Project. It would follow similar procedures as a Working Group/Task Force for formation, reporting, and disbanding. Pilot Projects would need additional commitments, in writing, from specific federal agencies and from universities confirming their intention to perform the pilot project and evaluate it at appropriate points in its development and implementation. Pilot Projects need the approval of the Executive Committee to be formed and dissolved.

A **Demonstration Project** may be an expanded version of a Pilot Project or it may be a new initiative. It would normally involve more than one institution and more than one federal agency. It has specific objectives and requires a specified assessment of outcomes in order to determine its suitability for the whole FDP. The written commitments for participation in a Demonstration Project would involve a formalized memorandum of understanding that would spell out roles of each of the participants along with the responsibility for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the effort. Demonstration Projects need the approval of the Executive Committee to be formed and dissolved. It is expected that Demonstration Projects consist of a federal and institutional co-chair.

Faculty Working Groups:

ERI

Works to identify and provide solutions for research-related issues specific to faculty at Emerging Research institutions

Faculty Workload Survey

Explores ways to bring attention to and increase the impact of the completed Faculty Workload Survey(s) and works on the development of future assessments of faculty workload associated with administrative responsibilities on federally-funded projects.

Enhancing Faculty Engagement

Works to strengthen and support the role of faculty within the FDP (e.g., develop recommended practices to help keep faculty engaged and to help faculty communicate with others at their institution and in their profession about the work of FDP).

Research Pipeline

Studies and reports on current practices for broadening participation in STEM fields by addressing issues that impact individuals in the student-to-professional pipeline; implement demonstrations to identify best practices and facilitate their broader use.

Electronic Research Administration (eRA) Working Groups:

DATA Act

The DATA Act Working Group is led by a combination of participants from the FDP Open Government Group and the eRA Standing Committee. The purpose of the working group is to keep tabs on the activities of OMB and Treasury as they implement the DATA Act. In addition, FDP will provide feedback, guidance, and offer testing/validation assistance as the DATA Act enters pilot phases.

Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap

The purpose of this group is to develop an end-to-end picture of the electronic grant life cycle road map in order to identify and prioritize pain points to identify potential projects for the FDP eRA Committee in Phase VI.

Integrated Acquisition Environment

The purpose of this working group is to identify potential improvements within the integrated acquisition environment, including SAM.gov, and provide input on new enhancements and features to facilitate the higher education community, such as integrating the Federal Clearinghouse.

Streamlining Proposal Submission

The purpose of this group is to identify and prioritize the many opportunities for improvements that exist in the application process, from institutional registration in federal systems through application submission and status tracking. We will propose strategies to implement improvements and work with FDP institutions, federal agencies, and Grants.gov to implement pilots, demonstrations, or proposed solutions. Activities under this group include the Grants.gov JAD team and the SciENCv group.

21st Century Tools for FDP

Given the increase in size of the FDP membership for Phase VI, our committee plans to explore the use of collaboration tools to enhance and facilitate FDP's communication and planning.

Research Administration Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Subawards

This group works to expedite proposing, issuing and managing subawards. A primary responsibility of this group is to update, manage, and improve the FDP Subaward templates, a nationally-deployed set of templates designed to expedite subaward issuance and management. In addition, the group is looking at ways to use electronic research administration to enhance the subaward issuance process and risk assessments. This group is a close partner with Expanded Clearinghouse.

Expanded Clearinghouse

Building on the success of the PHS FCOI Clearinghouse (an FDP repository of more than 900 entities which have certified they are compliant with PHS' financial conflict of interest repository), this group is working to develop one single web based repository for all FDP entities (and potentially others) to upload and maintain all entity related information about their organization. This information will enable Pass-Through Entities to conduct subrecipient monitoring and risk assessment activities in a timely and streamlined fashion without requiring time and resources to send and collect various forms to obtain the information. This group is a close partner with Subawards.

Contracts

This group provides a forum for discussion of current issues in federal contracting. Common issues and practices in contracts processing are reviewed to determine optimal solutions that can be broadly adopted. The group also monitors emerging federal requirements and discusses potential implementations.

Open Government

This group works to analyze government initiatives that are designed to increase public transparency with regard to federally sponsored research (e.g., FFATA, Data Act, GRIP, etc), determine if there are best practices that institutions should follow, and find ways to streamline compliance with these initiatives. This group partners with the ERA Data Act working group.

Research Terms and Conditions

This group serves as an advance review group for the Uniform Guidance version of the federal Research Terms and Conditions. Their goal is to assist the participating research agencies in refining the proposed Research Terms and Conditions tool set to ensure that they successfully address grantee needs; to expedite FDP members' review of the proposed terms; and to facilitate adoption of the updated terms by FDP members. This group partners with Subawards.

Financial, Audit, and Costing Demonstration and Working Groups:

Admin Cost

The Uniform Guidance (2 CFR §200) became effective on December 26, 2014. The Working Group focuses on identifying financial, audit and costing issues regarding to the implementation of the Uniform Guidance as well as issues regarding federal agency regulations. The Working Group collaborates with representatives of the federal agencies to present issues and their potential resolutions. The Working Group solicits input from the FDP membership regarding troublesome policies and regulations, and keeps the membership informed of issues and the status of their resolutions. Certain issues may be candidates for an FDP demonstration.

UG Procurement

Reviews existing and new administrative requirements imposed by federal regulations and program officers related to conflicts of interest (individual and institutional). The emphasis should be on harmonization of requirements across federal agencies, reduction of redundancies and identifying good practices.

Payroll Certification

In 2011 the Federal Demonstration Partnership proposed a Payroll Certification process that was in compliance with OMB Circular A-21, the cost principles in place at the time. A-21 provided three examples of certification methods, and required institutions to confirm, on an after-the-fact basis, that payroll changes to sponsored programs were commensurate with the effort provided. Four institutions are currently participating in a pilot to demonstrate that "project certification" is a more effective and efficient means to assure that the distribution of salaries and wages to sponsored agreements are appropriate. The Uniform Guidance (2 CFR §200) became effective on December 26, 2014. The Project Certification method has been evaluated based on the requirements in Uniform Guidance §200.430 Compensation – personal services, and is deemed to be compliant with the new requirements.

Research Compliance Subcommittees, Demonstrations, and Working Groups:

COI

Reviews existing and new administrative requirements imposed by federal regulations and program officers related to conflicts of interest (individual and institutional). The emphasis should be on harmonization of requirements across federal agencies, reduction of redundancies and identifying good practices.

Data Stewardship

Reviews existing and new administrative requirements imposed by federal regulations and program officers related to research data security, retention, sharing and integrity. The emphasis should be on harmonization of requirements across federal agencies, reduction of redundancies and identifying good practices.

Export Controls

Reviews existing and new administrative requirements imposed by federal regulations and program officers related to export controls. The emphasis should be on harmonization of requirements across federal agencies, reduction of redundancies and identifying good practices.

IACUC

Reviews existing and new administrative requirements imposed by federal regulations and program officers related to animal use and care. The emphasis should be on harmonization of requirements across federal agencies, reduction of redundancies and identifying good practices.

IRB

Reviews existing and new administrative requirements imposed by federal regulations and program officers related to the human research participant protections. The emphasis should be on harmonization of requirements across federal agencies, reduction of redundancies and identifying good practices.

Laboratory Safety

Evaluates the potential role(s) that FDP can play in bringing attention to and shaping the ongoing "culture of safety" discussion and recommended practices.