



FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP

Redefining the Government & University Research Partnership

The Faculty-Administrator Collaboration Team: Just the FACTs Part II September 15, 2022

Hosted by: Faculty-Administrator Collaboration Team (FACT)

Co-Chairs: Steve Post, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Suzanne Alstadt, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences



FACT: Agenda

- Introduction
- FACT activities
- Breakout discussions of scenarios
- Report from breakout groups
- Open discussion and wrap up



FACT: Mission

Mission: FACT seeks to reduce the administrative burden associated with federally funded research by capitalizing on the unique resources of the FDP to bring together paired institutional representatives for focused dialogue and joint efforts centered on enhancing faculty-administrator collaborations that support successful research operations.



FACT: Participating Institutions

| FDP Member Organization | Faculty Rep | Admin Rep |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science | Eva McGhee | Perrilla Johnson-Woodard |
| College of Charleston | Kelly Shaver | Susan Anderson |
| MD Anderson | Sharon Dent | Wesley Harrott |
| Northeastern University | David Budil | Joan Cyr |
| Michigan Tech University | Larry Sutter | Dave Reed |
| Univ of Alabama, Huntsville | Carmen Scholz | Gloria Greene |
| Univ of Arkansas for Medical Sciences | Steven Post (co-chair) | Suzanne Alstadt (co-chair) |
| Univ of North Carolina, Chapel Hill | Kim Brownley | David Paul |
| Univ of Texas at Austin | Rob Crosnoe | Elena Mota |
| Univ of Washington | Mark Haselkorn | Lynette Arias/Rick Fenger |



FACT: Findings

- Matter of Trust

- Transparency and Effective Communication
- Familiarity
- Competency, fairness, accountability
- Involvement / Engagement
- Value and Support

- The Pandemic: A natural experiment

- Flexibility/ Adaptability
- Communication / Relationships
- Infrastructure / Resources



FACT: ThoughtExchange

What one action could you personally take to improve the overall research faculty/administrator relationship at your institution?

- Theme #1: Improve processes and timeliness
- Theme #2: Expand and improve outreach efforts between PI and administrator
- Theme #3: Increase understanding and appreciation



FACT: Activity

Breakout Rooms (30 min)

- Room #1: Improve processes and timeliness
- Room #2: Expand and improve outreach efforts between PI and administrator
- Room #3: Increase understanding and appreciation

Goal: Describe “best practices” that institutions can use to improve collaboration between faculty and research administrators



FACT: Summary

□ Room #1: Improve processes and timeliness

- Faculty and research administrators should interact early in grant process
- Set and adhere to timelines that are feasible for both faculty and research administrators
- Faculty and research administrators should be responsive and thoughtful in communicating
- Create efficient processes and workflows that accommodate both faculty and research administrators

□ Room #2: Expand and improve outreach efforts between PI and administrator

- Faculty and research administrators should know each other
- Faculty and research administrators should meet regularly to discuss processes and issues
- Faculty and research administrators should be involved in policy development

□ Room #3: Increase understanding and appreciation

- Research administrators should recognize the diverse research activities and needs of different faculty
- Faculty should be familiar with the types of support provided by research administration
- Acknowledge each other's support and efforts



FACT: Report and Discussion

Room 1: Improve processes and timeliness

Once upon a time at a research institution, the faculty and research administrators are in a frenzy. It is the June 5 NIH deadline, and several grant applications are due. The clock ticks away towards 5 p.m. At 4:50 p.m. there are still 9 proposals to be submitted...the signing officials frantically click SUBMIT and OH NO!!! One of the proposals had errors and did not go through. The deadline day ends with everyone exhausted and dissatisfied.

The PI wakes up the next morning and realizes that she is furious. How could her beloved proposal not be submitted? It was sure to be funded, and if not for those administrators with all of their rules, she would be curing the world of a terrible disease. The research administrators are ready to defend their honor. While it is very unfortunate that the proposal was not submitted, the road to the grant submission portal was fraught with obstacles. The two parties are ready to duel.



FACT: Report and Discussion

Room #2: Expand and improve outreach efforts between PI and administrator

A PI has found a unique funding opportunity and would like to apply. After reviewing the proposal information, the PI has some questions about required institutional commitments and contacts the Research Admin office to discuss. The RA is not able to answer the PIs questions about the proposal and refers them to other administrators who all give different answers to the same question. The PI is now frustrated and informs their department chair that they don't think they can apply for the award. The chair sends a terse email to the VPR asking why the RA office cannot provide the necessary assistance to the PI.



FACT: Report and Discussion

Room #3: Increase understanding and appreciation

PI has a grant renewal where they assume they are aware of program parameters based on past information. The PI is unaware that for the renewal period, the program guidelines have changed. Because of assumed familiarity with the program, the PI skipped several informational meetings.

RA gets the proposal for review on the day it is due. After quick review of the proposal requirements, RA contacts PI with information on non-compliance based on the updated guidelines. The PI attempts to make as many revisions as possible, but the proposal has to be submitted without all of the required updates.



FACT: Discussion

- Raise your hand
- Leave questions in chat



FACT: Questions and Discussion

THANK YOU!

For more information about FACT, see our webpage:

<http://thefdp.org/default/committees/faculty-committee/faculty-administrator-collaboration-team-fact/>

Co-Chairs

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