



Research Administration Committee - Exploring Proposal Development & Submission Possible Demonstrations

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Today's Topics

- Overview of Proposal Initiative
- Faculty Involvement
- Foreign Influence Working Group Overlap
- ThoughtExchange Results
- Discussion of Priority Focus Areas



Poll Question #1

Question: Please select the option that best fits your role at your institution.

- Central Administration
- Research Administration not in a Central Office
- Faculty/Researcher
- Faculty/Researcher with an Administrative Appointment
- eRA/Technical Role
- Other



Poll Question #2

Question: Please select the option that best fits your focus as an attendee/institutional representative at FDP.

- Administrative
- Faculty
- eRA/Technical
- Federal Agency
- Other



Proposal Initiative

Purpose: To engage FDP in proposal related admin burden reduction initiatives focused on proposal development and submission business processes and requirements

- Collaboration with eRA Committee (system focused) and Faculty Committee
- Potential to collaborate with many other FDP committees, working groups, and federal partners

Recent Activities:

- Development of a Flexibility Matrix
- Development and launch of a ThoughtExchange

Current Status:

- Evaluate next steps following review of ThoughtExchange results



Faculty Involvement

Objective: Align focus to ensure any potential demonstrations would address burden experienced from both an investigator and administrator perspective

- Discussed the initiative in a Faculty Steering Committee call
- Shared the ThoughtExchange in an email targeted to the Faculty listserv
- Invited faculty volunteers from the Volunteer Interest Survey to join the group currently working on this initiative (5 accepted)
- Invited faculty to attend this session



Reminder Slide

Show poll results now.



Foreign Influence Working Group Overlap

The Foreign Influence Working Group (FIWG) is exploring a Key Investigator Clearinghouse.

- Many ThoughtExchange comments related to biosketches and current and pending/other support format and harmonization across agencies
- Proposal Initiatives will focus on other items to avoid overlap/duplicative efforts
- FIWG session tomorrow, Wednesday, at 1pm
 - **Science and Security - Latest Developments in Managing Improper Foreign Influence**



Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

- ThoughtExchange initially launched at the May meeting
- Faculty email inviting participation sent in August

What do you believe would result in the most significant reduction of burden in the Federal proposal development, proposal submission and Just-In-Time stages?



Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

Breakdown of Participation



148
Participants



123
Thoughts



2,173
Ratings




Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

Breakdown of Participation

What is your primary role at your organization?



133
Responses

%		Answer <i>(Multi-select)</i>
72%	(97)	Central Administration
7%	(10)	Research Administration not in a Central Office
3%	(4)	Technical Representative
16%	(22)	Faculty/Researcher
0%	(1)	Federal Representative



Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

Breakdown of Participation

How would you categorize your institution based on FY2019 NSF Higher Education Research & Development (HERD) survey data?



%	Person Icon	Answer
50%	(65)	Public > \$200 million
17%	(22)	Public < \$200 million
18%	(23)	Private > \$200 million
12%	(15)	Private < \$200 million
3%	(4)	Other /Unknown/NA



Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

Breakdown of Participation

With what Sponsor is your primary experience? (If there is not a clear primary sponsor, more than one sponsor can be selected)



%	👤	Answer <i>(Multi-select)</i>
51%	(66)	NIH
32%	(41)	NSF
4%	(6)	USDA
1%	(2)	NASA
3%	(5)	DOD
0%	(0)	EPA
0%	(1)	DHS
3%	(5)	Other
13%	(17)	Relatively distributed
1%	(2)	Unknown



Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

Word Cloud – Top Rated





Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

Harmonization

Harmonization across agencies on forms, formats, and requirements. While information may be similar, forms, formats, and requirements are often different across agencies. This is difficult for all stakeholders. 4.5 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

Harmonization of new biosketch & other support requirements/forms BEFORE the 'new versions' are required multiple agencies making changes at same time has created confusions 4.5 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

Harmonizing other/current and pending support requirements and only requesting the information at JIT Differences in agency requirements is making other support requirements difficult to manage 4.3 ★★★★★ (28 👤)



Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

JIT (Just-in-Time) - Overall

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------|--------|
| Expanded use of JIT Shifting submission of documents inconsequential to the scientific merit of a proposal (ie C&P) to a JIT stage would greatly reduce submission burden | 4.4 | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | (26 👤) |
| more agencies to use the JIT model only have to submit certain items if necessary for further review | 4.1 | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | (27 👤) |
| I believe having the current/pending, including any foreign support, wait until JIT stage would be much more efficient and accurate. We are going to expend a lot of effort to get faculty to disclose this info to us and it will often be outdated by the time an award is made. | 4.1 | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | (13 👤) |
| Expansion of JIT - more items and more agencies. Data management plans, postdoc mentoring plan any other items not needed for initial review . reduce proposal preparation burden | 4.0 | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | (27 👤) |
| I like the idea of wider use of JIT until you have a proposal score. It would require less documents on proposals outside the fundable range. | 4.0 | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | (26 👤) |



Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

JIT (Just-in-Time) – Faculty/Researcher

#1

DOD and NSF still require pending support at proposal stage, move to JIT. Consistently practiced at JIT across all federal agencies.

3.8  (8 )
Ranked #1 of 42



#2


Introducing more JIT components would definitely assist with burden - including Current and Pending, cost share commitment, compliance issues The time spent on C&P, NIH's human subjects forms, gathering cost share commitments is time that could be spent on content of the budget & proposal

3.8  (8 )
Ranked #2 of 42



#3

Adopt & Move More Items to JIT Why provide award management info 8 months in advance when it is just going to change; Save it for the JIT; More agencies need to adopt the JIT model

3.8  (7 )
Ranked #3 of 42



#5

Inter-agency "harmonization" about formats and about information required at JIT From a faculty perspective - reduction in burden associated with differing requirements across agencies

3.7  (6 )
Ranked #5 of 42





Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

JIT (Just-in-Time) – Administrator

#3

Expanded use of JIT Shifting submission of documents inconsequential to the scientific merit of a proposal (ie C&P) to a JIT stage would greatly reduce submission burden

4.4 ★★★★★ (25)

Ranked #3 of 82



#4

Harmonizing other/current and pending support requirements and only requesting the information at JIT Differences in agency requirements is making other support requirements difficult to manage

4.4 ★★★★★ (25)

Ranked #4 of 82



#8

Unilateral format for biosketch and current and pending, submitted at JIT only requires upkeep, eliminates the vastly different sponsor rules for C/P, only if award is forthcoming allowing focus on science

4.4 ★★★★★ (23)

Ranked #8 of 82





Proposal Initiative – ThoughtExchange

Budget

Submit a detailed budget and justification at the JIT stage The budget takes a lot of effort between the PIs, DRAs and the central office and it could be saved for proposals that are likely to be funded 3.8 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

Expanded use of less detailed budgets Consider allowing budgets similar to NIH Modulars. Detailed budgets take significant effort and rebudgeting tolerances allow flexibility anyway. 3.8 ★★★★★ (25 👤)

Detailed budget and budget justification requested at JIT, just like the PAR-19-367 R35 MIRA It saves a lot of time for the PI, Grant Manager and reviewer at proposal submission. 3.7 ★★★★★ (26 👤)



Flexibility Matrix

Comparison of top rated thoughts to Flexibility Matrix:

Questions structured to elicit answer YES =more flexible/preferred; JIT = more flexible/preferred

Flexibility/FDP Member Agency	NSF	NIH	ONR	USDA	AFOSR	ARO	AMRMC	NASA	EPA	DHS (Homeland Security)
Broad use of pre-proposals for most competitive programs	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
Broad use of rolling proposal deadlines	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Some use of rolling proposal deadlines	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Proposal submission is only through Grants.gov not agency supplemental system	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
Allows submission of abbreviated budgets and justifications at proposal	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO ***could
Does not require special budget breakdown (by task/federal fiscal year/etc)	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Proposal deadline time is 5pm local?	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Timing of Current & Pending/Other Support	PROPOSAL	JIT	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	N/A
Use of sciENCv	YES	YES/NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Timing of Data management plan submission	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	N/A	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	N/A	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	N/A	N/A
Timing of Human Subjects use/Clinical Trial description	N/A	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	N/A	N/A	N/A	PROPOSAL	N/A	N/A	N/A
Timing of IRB protocol submission	JIT	JIT	JIT	JIT	JIT	JIT	JIT	NO	JIT	JIT
Timing of Animal use description	N/A	PROPOSAL	PROPOSAL	N/A	N/A	N/A	PROPOSAL	N/A	N/A	N/A
Timing of ACUC protocol submission	JIT	JIT	JIT	JIT	JIT	JIT	JIT	NO	JIT	JIT
Does not require submission of SFI/COI disclosures or updates	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Does not require sponsored travel disclosures	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Does not require OCI/ICOI disclosures	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Does not require certifications/disclosures other than SAM	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES
Use collaborative proposal model rather than subs	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Does not require collaborators/affiliates form submission	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES ***answe



Discussion

- Thoughts from attendees on JIT focus?



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