

Working Group – address proposal writing resources

For the purpose of this effort, the group identified four categories of faculty whose needs were to be assessed:

- Existing faculty with current extramural funding

- Existing faculty without current funding, but with a history of prior extramural funding

- Existing faculty no prior history of extramural funding

- New faculty

Listening tour – CLAS, COM, ENG, CoEd, PPHP, IFAS,

Faculty Survey – sent out through Provost's faculty list serve.

FACULTY SURVEY

298 total responses

44 – indicated extramural funding was not necessary as part of their appointment. Were exited from the survey

Of the respondents,

37% held the rank of Professor

26% were Associate Professors and

35% were Assistant Professors.

Duration at UF

40% of the respondents have been at UF for 5 years or less,

18% for 5-10 years,

24% between 10-20 years, and

18% of the faculty have been at UF for >20 years.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There were several instances where faculty were complimentary to their support staff.

There was a strong need expressed for expanded services in research development.

- Only 27% of the proposals submitted by the survey respondents had a budget greater than \$2.5 million, the current cut off for assistance provided by DRPD.
- Approximately 31% of proposals submitted had budgets in the range of \$750,000-\$2.5 million;
- 35% of the proposals submitted had a budget request of \$100,000-\$750,000; and
- 7% of the proposals submitted were for \$100,000 or less.

In addition, only 32% of respondents were aware of the research development services offered by DRPD.

Increased assistance in

Budget preparation

Post-award management of large projects

Faculty expressed two major constraints in expanding their research portfolios

- 1) a lack of time due to existing commitments on existing projects, and increased administrative and compliance requirements to manage those projects;
- 2) a need for increased research development assistance.

Key Recommendations (not in order of priority):

The Office of Research needs to provide increased support for faculty at all levels for the preparation of proposals. There is also a great need for a document repository that is updated frequently.

Specific recommendations are listed below:

1. Facilitate faculty training in the preparation of competitive proposals; assist faculty in diversifying their funding portfolios; provide assistance with visits to private and federal funding agencies.
2. Maintain a document repository which contains boilerplate information on institutional resources and policies, as well as examples of successful grants. This information should be regularly, and frequently, updated.
3. Publicize services provided by DRPD to promote awareness of the assistance available. This information could be easily added to the current weekly grant opportunities emails. Eye-catching banners near the top of the emails could be used to increase visibility.
4. Increase staff-support resources in DRPD to expand services, including editorial assistance, and provide guidance for collaborative proposals less than the current \$2.5M limit.
5. Coordinate efforts between the DRPD and the UF Foundation to provide more support to faculty preparing proposals to foundations.
6. Plan strategically and proactively, so that teams are assembled prior to publication of solicitations.
7. Facilitate collaboration meetings within UF to allow faculty to build teams. Support collaborative team-building at every level from working groups, to war rooms, to scholars-in-residence, to establish multi-institutional partnerships.
8. Provide more internal funds for seed grants and planning grants.
9. Reduce the administrative and compliance burden on the faculty so they would have time and effort to dedicate to preparing more proposals (for example: discipline specific and targeted online trainings, IRB support, post award administrative support etc.).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP

Lead:

- Sobha Jaishankar, Asst. Vice President and director of the Division of Research Program Development (DRPD) in the Office of Research.

Members:

- Sophia Acord (CLAS): Associate Director, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere
- James Collins (IFAS): Professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition Department
- Forrest Masters (HWCOE): Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Facilities
- Michael McDonald (CLAS): Professor, Political Science Department
- Rolf Renne (COM): Professor, and Associate Director, UF Cancer Center
- Adrian Roitberg (CLAS): Professor, Chemistry Department
- Karla Shelnuttt (IFAS): Associate Professor, Family, Youth and Community Sciences Department
- Almut Winterstein (COP): Professor and Chair, Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy Department
- Jinying Zhao (PHHP): Professor, Epidemiology Department

Continue to serve in an advisory capacity to DRPD and the Office of Research.