Challenges of Interdisciplinary Projects
Presenters

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Workshop goals:

• Identify the complexities that will result from the realized and anticipated growth of interdisciplinary projects
• Identify the role and responsibility of the PI and Department Administrator in these complexities
• Develop new ideas and share best practices to resolve issues related to interdisciplinary work
Growth: Increase in sponsored activity

Annual Expenditures
FY2010 Sponsored Programs -$180MM—doubled in 10 years
Growth: Change in funding portfolio

- National Science Foundation: 19%
- Department of Defense: 14%
- Department of Health & Human Services: 22%
- Other Fed: 23%
- Other: 17%
- State: 5%
What kind of challenges???

• More vehicles for funding (contracts, grants, milestones)
• New mandates and threats of/perceived mandates (export controls, quarterly reports, etc.)
• Interdisciplinary—less single investigator
What is the impact on YOU

• More to track
• Different things to track
• Increased communication demands
• Job security—increased demand
• Increased expectation of expertise (training/certifications, etc.)
Scenarios for discussion

• Multiple PI’s
• Collaboration with other institutions
• Multiple milestones -- Varied contracts
EXERCISE (Activity)—20 MINUTES

• Count off (1-2-3)
• Huddle around a flipchart
• Read the handout provided
• Teams will record (On flipchart) issues that might impact Department Administrators and things they can do to minimize problems (provide solutions)
• Each team will need to appoint a time-keeper and someone to report back to the large group.
Scenario #1

Description:

Dr. Dots is planning to submit a proposal to the National Institutes of Health. The proposal is being submitted for a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). The PI in your department has given you the solicitation for this proposal. The proposal will be for five years and the total amount of the request is $5,000,000. There will be faculty involved in this proposal from three colleges on campus and six departments within those colleges. There will be faculty of all ranks involved. Senior faculty will be mentors on this proposal and the junior faculty will be the investigators conducting the research. Each faculty member involved is required to provide a minimum amount of effort for each year. There will be two subawards for this proposal. One subaward will be made to the University of Minnesota and the other subaward will be to United States Corporation.
Scenario #2

Description:

The University of Delaware has been awarded a subcontract from American Corporation. The prime sponsor is the Army Research Laboratory, a DoD agency. Your faculty member will be the PI for UD. In the contract from American Corporation the prime award is referenced but has not been provided. There is a two page document attached to the subcontract that lists the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) UD will be subject to and it includes the 252.204-7000 Disclosure of Information FAR. The start date on the subcontract is 9/1/2010. UD received the subcontract on 7/1/2010 to review and sign. The PI is anxious to start work and discuss preaward spending.
Scenario #3

Description:

UD receives Federal award with task specific milestones and related reporting. UD subs to both industry and universities to complete the work. Financial and technical quarterly reports are required. PI plans to submit the reports to the sponsor his/herself.
Review

• Interdisciplinary work creates new challenges
• Communication (*all around!!*) is key to success
• Seek help when presented with a new situation or when unsure
Additional Questions?