Creating Fruit Smoothie Cross Disciplinary Admin Teams

Research Administrator Conference
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Presenters
Leigh Botner, Research Development, RO
Jess Cote, Sponsored Programs, RO
Lisa Henriksen, Sponsored Programs, College of Engineering

Learning Objectives
• Discuss the emergence of Team Science
• Define the three types of cross disciplinary collaborations
• Explore the administrative structures needed for effective cross disciplinary collaborations
• Introduce the concept of embracing our failures and striving for perfection
Trends in Research since 1978

From: Patrick Clemins, AAAS R&D Budget Policy

Federal R&D Budget – FY 2010
Dominated by NIH

Team Science and the NIH

- "The scale and complexity of today’s biomedical research problems increasingly demand that scientists move beyond the confines of their own discipline and explore new organizational models for team science. For example, imaging research often requires radiologists, physicists, cell biologists and computer programmers to work together on integrated teams. Many scientists will still continue to pursue individual research projects, but they too will be encouraged to make changes in the way they approach the scientific enterprise. NIH wants to stimulate new ways of combining skills and disciplines in both the physical and biological sciences."

- "A major goal of the [CTSA] program is to develop teams of investigators from various fields of research who can take scientific discoveries in the laboratory and turn them into treatment and strategies for patients in the clinic."

Emergence of Team Science

- Science of team science is an inter-discipline emerging in response to the federal move towards funding large transdisciplinary research centers
- Promotes team based research by studying the processes by which research teams:
  - Organize
  - Communicate
  - Conduct Research
- Goal: To understand how teams connect and collaborate to achieve scientific breakthroughs that would be unattainable by either individual or additive efforts

Cross-disciplinary Collaboration

- Combine or integrate from more than one field
  - Concepts
  - Methods
  - Theories
- Three cross-disciplinary orientations
  - Multidisciplinary
    - Independent, Sequential
  - Interdisciplinary
    - Joint, Interactive
  - Transdisciplinary
    - Integrative, Extends

Typical administrative structures at UD

- Faculty
- Dept. Admin
- C & G

= Proposal out the door!

http://www.udel.edu/research

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Moving towards transdisciplinary structures

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Example of a Successful Cross Disciplinary Proposal/Award from UD

CTSA – submitted October 2010
12 sections – 6 Institutions – 112 Faculty/Staff – 8 Administrators

This was the second submission: improvements made since first submission included the use of share-point to gather documents, planning meetings starting in mid May until submission in October.

Lessons learned for the 3rd Attempt – Additional Admins needed at each institution, make formatting decisions before requesting information from faculty or other admins, set up a rigid timeline for obtaining documents, set basic budget guidelines up early and

YOUR TASK
- Work in your table groups to assemble the 5 puzzles using the pieces provided.

RULE
- Each table may appoint 2 team members who can talk. All other members must be silent.

How’d that go?
Effective INTER-Department Teamwork

- Share center point values
- Put team first
- Walk the talk
- Maintain peak performance
- Prepare to win
- Capitalize on synergy
- Clarify procedures
- Foster positive attitudes
- Strive for perfection

Moving towards transdisciplinary structures

Faculty + Dept. Admin + C & G → Proposal out the door!

How do we get there?
Early Troubleshooting: Thinking about Compliance Issues @ Pre-Award

- Human Subjects
- Animal Subjects
- Intellectual Property Ownership
- Insurance
- Confidentiality
- Export Control

Post-Submission Reflection/Evaluation

- Administrative TEAM’s job is not over when C&G “pushes the button!”
- If funded, there should be a plan for post-award collaborative management.

Leigh lbotner@udel.edu
Jess cote@udel.edu
Lisa lhenrik@udel.edu
www.udel.edu/research