Please keep your microphone muted until the Q&A session

Please note that this session is being recorded
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

We provide proposal development assistance across the spectrum*

Meet goals in the UI strategic plan – grow research and creative efforts across all disciplines

Reach out to discuss ideas with us and request service – uidaho.edu/orfd

All services are optional and are granted on a first come, first served basis

*Not including budget preparation
OBJECTIVES

IN THIS SESSION, WE WILL DISCUSS:

- Grant readiness defined
- Problems with grant readiness - examples
- Key strategies that contribute to grant readiness
- Tips for enhancing competitiveness of your next proposal, regardless of the sponsor
- How RFD can help you improve your grant readiness
- Discussion and Q&A
GRANT READINESS

Having the necessary preparation, qualifications, training, expertise, networks, resources, infrastructure, organization, time, attitude, and perspective to develop a competitive grant proposal and carry out a proposed research project.
WHY GRANT READINESS?

“Is it just me or are these review panels getting a lot tougher?”
GRANT READINESS

- Strategies to implement before you write
- Commonly missed best practices
Example #1 – Non-federal sponsor

“The panel felt that this was an easy-to-read proposal with aim, rationale, methods, and expected outcomes, and long-term goals clearly defined. Cutting edge experiments are proposed. The subject matter is very interesting, and students would benefit from the project. There is good institutional support. We recognize the need for a fluorescent microscope since routine work cannot be taken to the confocal microscope.”

“The panel was concerned about the thin publication record of the PI. We missed seeing real data and a better description of the data from the preliminary experiments, and we would have liked to see how data would be analyzed. The unfortunate retraction of a paper on which some of the PI’s experiments are based was discussed; this must be addressed. Immunoblots will be necessary in the experiments planned.”
“Co-PI #1 does not currently have external funding for either of his projects and has not published any research articles independent of his Ph.D. advisor.”

“It would appear that Co-PI #2 has no prior experience with these types of NMR experiments he proposes. Showing some data acquired from these systems on a XXX-MHz NMR spectrometer would significantly strengthen this part of the proposal. The figures of Raman and light-scattering data do little to bolster the proposed NMR investigation. Co-PI #2 does not have any current funding for his research and has only published one independent research paper (plus one "in preparation").”
GRANT READINESS

TEN AREAS TO CONSIDER:

- Research Agenda
- Hone Funding Targets
- Know Your Funder
- Research Positioning
- Solicitation Requirements
- Institutional Resources
- PI Qualifications
- Colleagues and Connections
- Proposal Timing
- Attitude and Resolve
HOW TO IMPROVE GRANT READINESS

Develop Your Research Agenda

- Map out a five-year research plan
- Use Pivot to find and track funding
- Subscribe to internal and external funding listservs – e.g., OSPPI
- Know how to initiate RFD services

Optimize Your Funding Searches
HOW TO IMPROVE GRANT READINESS

- Determine Fit to the Funder
  - Research your funder
  - Contact your program officer
  - Develop a one-page overview
  - Read funded proposals

- Enhance Your Research Positioning
HOW TO IMPROVE GRANT READINESS

- Dissect Solicitation/Develop Materials
  - Analyze the RFP/RFA/solicitation
  - Collect examples of common proposal elements
  - Create master versions of common proposal documents
  - Assemble master resources and facilities list
  - Create an outline and checklist for each proposal
- Assemble Resources & Support
HOW TO IMPROVE GRANT READINESS

Augment PI Qualifications

Build Your Research Network

- Maintain a strong publication record
- Become a peer reviewer
- Maintain active connections to your scholarly communities
- Assemble a master proposal team
HOW TO IMPROVE GRANT READINESS

Hone Your Proposal Timing

- Assemble a timeline and stick to it (e.g., 2-to-3-month proposal development process, weekly meetings)
- Block out regular time, limit distractions
- Know your Pre-Award Sponsored Program Administrators
- Know your Departmental Grant Administrators
- Be prepared to apply multiple times

Adopt a Learning Mindset
Case Studies
#1 – Non-federal sponsor

“The panel felt that this was an easy-to-read proposal with aim, rationale, methods, and expected outcomes, and long-term goals clearly defined. Cutting edge experiments are proposed. The subject matter is very interesting, and students would benefit from the project. There is good institutional support.”

“The panel was concerned about the thin publication record of the PI. We missed seeing real data and a better description of the data from the preliminary experiments, and we would have liked to see how data would be analyzed. The unfortunate retraction of a paper on which some of the PI’s experiments are based was discussed; this must be addressed. Immunoblots will be necessary in the experiments planned.”

Possible Solutions?
“The panel felt that this was an easy-to-read proposal with aim, rationale, methods, and expected outcomes, and long-term goals clearly defined.

Cutting edge experiments are proposed. The subject matter is very interesting, and students would benefit from the project. There is good institutional support.”

“The panel was concerned about the thin publication record of the PI. We missed seeing real data and a better description of the data from the preliminary experiments, and we would have liked to see how data would be analyzed. The unfortunate retraction of a paper on which some of the PI’s experiments are based was discussed; this must be addressed. Immunoblots will be necessary in the experiments planned.”

**#1 – Non-federal sponsor**

- **Research Positioning** – added preliminary data
- **Institutional Resources** – secured matching funds
- **PI Qualifications** – prioritized publications with undergraduate co-authors, co-PI on NSF MRI award
- **Colleagues and Connections** – added suggested reviewers
- **Proposal Timing** – pursued equipment grants w/ co-PIs

**Outcome:** Awarded, $45K
“Co-PI #1 does not currently have external funding for either of his projects and has not published any research articles independent of his Ph.D. advisor.”

“It would appear that Co-PI #2 has no prior experience with these types of NMR experiments he proposes. Showing some data acquired from these systems on a XXX-MHz NMR spectrometer would significantly strengthen this part of the proposal. The figures of Raman and light-scattering data do little to bolster the proposed NMR investigation. Co-PI #2 does not have any current funding for his research and has only published one independent research paper (plus one "in preparation").”

Possible Solutions?
“Co-PI #1 does not currently have external funding for either of his projects and has not published any research articles independent of his Ph.D. advisor.”

“It would appear that Co-PI #2 has no prior experience with these types of NMR experiments he proposes. Showing some data acquired from these systems on a 400-MHz NMR spectrometer would significantly strengthen this part of the proposal. The figures of Raman and light-scattering data do little to bolster the proposed NMR investigation.

Co-PI #2 does not have any current funding for his research and has only published one independent research paper (plus one “in preparation”).

---

#2 – NSF MRI

Outcome: NSF MRI award, $500K
GRANT READINESS

TEN THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Research Agenda
- Hone Funding Targets
- Know Your Funder
- Research Positioning
- Solicitation Requirements
- Institutional Resources
- PI Qualifications
- Colleagues and Connections
- Proposal Timing
- Attitude and Resolve
How many grant readiness strategies do you regularly employ?

- Research Agenda
- Hone Funding Targets
- Know Your Funder
- Research Positioning
- Solicitation Requirements
- Institutional Resources
- PI Qualifications
- Colleagues and Connections
- Proposal Timing
- Attitude and Resolve
WHAT RFD DOES TO HELP FACULTY DEVELOP COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS

- General Consultation – Working w/ RFD, strategic planning, broader impacts
- Funding Opportunity Searches
- Developing a Concept Paper and Contacting Program Officers
- Resubmission Strategizing
- Proposal Narrative Review
- Proposal Package Review
- Support for Large Interdisciplinary Proposals (>1M)
RESEARCH & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

GET TO KNOW RFD SERVICES & RESOURCES:

- Request proposal development services
- Access proposal resources
  - Sponsor checklists, templates, guides
- Find funding with Pivot
- Meet with RFD specialists
- Attend RFD seminars & workshops
RESEARCH & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

GET TO KNOW RFD SERVICES & RESOURCES:

- Request proposal development services
- Access proposal resources
  - Sponsor checklists, templates, guides
- Find funding with Pivot
- Meet with RFD specialists
- Attend RFD seminars & workshops
FALL 2020

- **Sept. 9**  NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program: Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal
- **Sept. 23**  NSF CAREER All Year: Getting Ready to Apply
- **Sept. 30**  NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2: Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal
- **Oct. 7**  Find Funding Opportunities: Introduction to Pivot
- **Oct. 21**  NSF CAREER All Year: Getting Started on Your Proposal
- **Nov. 4**  UPDATE: Mountain West Clinical and Translational Research-Infrastructure Network (MW CTR-IN) Funding Opportunities
- **Nov. 18**  Myth-busting Department of Defense Funding Opportunities
- **Dec. 2**  M. J. Murdock Trust’s Commercialization Initiation Program: Tips for Writing a Competitive Proposal

SPRING 2021

- **Jan. 13**  Find Funding Opportunities: Introduction to Pivot
- **Jan. 27**  Funding Research and Scholarly Work in the Humanities
- **Feb. 3**  Idaho is an EPSCoR State - What This Means for Supporting Your Research
- **Feb. 17**  How to Develop and Deliver an Effective Pitch
- **Mar. 3**  Assessing Your Grant Readiness
- **Mar. 24**  Early Career Faculty Research - Grant Programs
- **Apr. 7**  USDA NIFA AFRI: Tips for Getting Started with Your Next Proposal
- **Apr. 14**  Developing Data Management Plans - Best Practices and Resources
- **Apr. 28**  Equipment Grant Programs: An Overview

WE GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE EXTERNAL GRANT PROPOSALS

Office of Research and Faculty Development

Email: ored-rfdteam@uidaho.edu
Website: uidaho.edu/orfd
TAKEAWAYS

Add grant readiness tools and strategies to your regular practice

Interested in grant readiness self-assessment? Email ored-rfdteam@uidaho.edu for more information

Discussion / Q&A: What’s an example of a strategy you use to improve your grant readiness?