LESSONS LEARNED FROM SERVING ON PROPOSAL REVIEW PANELS

RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FACULTY SUCCESS SEMINAR SERIES

Carly Cummings, PhD, CPRA
Director, Research and Faculty Development

Special Guests:
Dr. Lee Fortunato, Professor, Biological Sciences
Dr. Eric Mittelstaedt, Associate Professor, Geography & Geological Sciences
Dr. Andreas Vasdekis, Assistant Professor, Physics

Please keep your microphone muted until the Q&A session
Please note that this session is being recorded
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT (RFD)

Mission: To provide the resources and services to University of Idaho faculty that enhance their success and productivity in their field of scholarly efforts, with the ultimate goal of growing the U of I’s research enterprise

- Alignment with U of I strategic plan
- Across all disciplines
WHAT DOES RFD DO?

Successful, funded research leaders

- Faculty Development
- Proposal Development
- Leadership Development
PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Level 0
- Brainstorming
- Strategic planning for submissions

Level 1
- Search for funding opportunities
- Training to use Pivot

Level 2
- Preparing to contact Program Officers
- Assessing “fit” of a proposed idea

Level 3
- Strategize for a resubmission
- Analyze reviews, develop responses

Level 4/5
- Ensuring proposal documents are clear, concise, cohesive, and responsive to the solicitation

Level 6
- Support for large, complex proposals
- Center grants, infrastructure, etc.

All services are optional and are granted on a first come, first served basis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL 2021</th>
<th>SPRING 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 8</strong> Find Funding with Pivot, a Database of Grant Opportunities and More</td>
<td><strong>Jan. 19</strong> Find Funding with Pivot, a Database of Grant Opportunities and More</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 15</strong> M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust’s Partners in Science Program</td>
<td><strong>Jan. 26</strong> Idaho Higher Education Research Council (HERC) Funding Opportunities</td>
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<td><strong>Sept. 29</strong> Partnering with the U of I McClure Center on Your Research: Why and How</td>
<td><strong>Feb. 9</strong> Lessons Learned from Serving on Proposal Review Panels</td>
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<td><strong>Oct. 6</strong> Working with the Research and Faculty Development Team to Enhance the Competitiveness of Your Next Proposal</td>
<td><strong>Feb. 23</strong> NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program: Strategies for Competitive Proposals</td>
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<td><strong>Oct. 13</strong> NSF CAREER: Essential Steps Toward Developing a Competitive Proposal</td>
<td><strong>Mar. 2</strong> NSF CAREER: Getting Started on Your Proposal - Now is the Time!</td>
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<td><strong>Oct. 20</strong> Improving Your Grant Competitiveness: Strategies for Resubmission</td>
<td><strong>Mar. 30</strong> First Impressions: Steps to Create a Captivating Proposal Title and First Page</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 3</strong> UPDATE: Mountain West Clinical and Translational Research-Infrastructure Network (MW CTR-IN) Funding</td>
<td><strong>Apr. 6</strong> Partnering with the U of I Project ECHO on Your Research: Why and How</td>
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<td><strong>Nov. 10</strong> NSF S-STEM: Strategies for Competitive Proposals</td>
<td><strong>Apr. 13</strong> Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Broadening Participation in Funded Research</td>
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**WE GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE EXTERNAL GRANT PROPOSALS**

**Office of Research and Faculty Development**

Email: ored-rfdteam@uidaho.edu

Website: uidaho.edu/otrfd

**ZOOM ID**

uidaho.zoom.us/j/81568190096
Proposal Development Academy: *What You Need to Know Before You Write*

- Enhancing *grant readiness* of early-career faculty members

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<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Developing a 5-year Research Funding Plan</td>
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<td>Crafting A Research Funding Profile; Overview of Pivot</td>
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<td>Uncovering Sponsors’ Grant and Funding Data; Know your funder</td>
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<td>Enhancing Your Grant Readiness: Contacting Program Officers; Institutional Resources</td>
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<td>Dissecting Proposal Solicitations for Effective Proposal Writing</td>
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<td>The Anatomy and Architecture of a Successful Proposal</td>
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<td>Enhancing Your Grant Readiness: Collaborations, Colleagues, and Connections</td>
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<td>Beyond the Narrative: Strategies for Supplementary Documents</td>
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- 9-week cohort program in Spring semesters
- Dean nomination to participate
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ORED)

ORA: Office of Research Assurances
OSP: Office of Sponsored Programs
OTT: Office of Technology Transfer
AUDIENCE POLL

- Submitted a proposal to external sponsor?
- Served as a reviewer for an external sponsor?
- Feeling confident in understanding the proposal review process for your “favorite” funding agencies?
PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

Overview of NSF and NIH peer review processes

Learn from our experts about what happens on the “inside”

- Understand what the proposal review process looks like
- Tips for a successful proposal review

Enhance the competitiveness of your next proposal!
NSF MERIT REVIEW PROCESS
NSF MERIT REVIEW PROCESS


- 41,024 proposals competitively reviewed (85% FY2018)

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<td>Awards</td>
<td>14,595</td>
<td>12,996</td>
<td>11,192</td>
<td>11,524</td>
<td>10,829</td>
<td>10,958</td>
<td>12,007</td>
<td>11,877</td>
<td>11,447</td>
<td>11,702</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Rate</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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*Source: NSF Enterprise Information System, 10/01/19.*

- Funding rates vary among directorates (27% overall; 11,243 awards)
  - EHR: 22% → GEO: 37%

- Average # of proposals to be submitted before an award is made = 2.4

- NSF’s goal is to inform at least 75% of PIs of funding decisions *within six months* of receipt of their proposals (61%)
Introductory video (6:12)

NSF funded peers

Attend an NSF Grants Conference
  - Resource Center
  - Previous RFD presentation (here)

NSF DEB Virtual Office Hour: How to Write a Great Review
  - Feb. 14: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET
  - Zoom
NIH PEER REVIEW

- Two-stage review process
  - Receipt and Referral (Assignment)
  - Level 1 – Initial Peer Review
  - Level 2 – National Advisory Council Review
NIH CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC REVIEW
Serves the 24 NIH Institutes and Centers that fund grants

https://public.csr.nih.gov/
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<th>Table 2 – Research Project Grants (RPG)</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2020 % Change from 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of research project grant (RPG) applications:</td>
<td>54,903</td>
<td>55,038</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of new or renewal (competing) RPG awards:</td>
<td>11,035</td>
<td>11,332</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
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<td>Success rate of RPG applications:</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
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<td>Average size of RPGs:</td>
<td>$553,679</td>
<td>$566,744</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Table 3 – R01-equivalent Grants*</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2020 % Change from 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of R01-equivalent grant applications:</td>
<td>35,085</td>
<td>36,250</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of new or renewal (competing) R01-equivalent awards:</td>
<td>7,366</td>
<td>7,767</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success rates for R01-equivalent applications:</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size of R01-equivalent awards:</td>
<td>$548,390</td>
<td>$559,680</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
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NIH REVIEW RESOURCES

- **NIH Regional Grants Conference**
  - Annual, typically Fall
  - Listserv
  - 2021 presentations
- RFD previous seminar ([here](#))
- NIH CSR YouTube videos
  - NIH Peer Review Briefing for Basic Research Applicants & Reviewers [video](#) (1:03:11) – Dr. Francis S. Collins
  - Let’s Look at NIH Peer Review (2021) [video](#) (43:06)
  - What Happens to Your NIH Grant Application [video](#) (21:11)
  - Top 10 Peer Review Q&As for NIH Applicants [video](#) (14:01)
  - RO1 Grants: Navigating Peer Review [video](#) (1:01:07)
  - CSR Insider’s Guide to Peer Review for Applicants [video](#) (12:34)
Why?

- Watch how the reviewers work – what they like/dislike
- Read good (and bad) proposals
- Networking with peers and PO

How?

- NSF process
- NIH process
  - Early Career Reviewer Program
- Other sponsors – Contact us
Quick introduction:

- Department
- Brief description of your research and funding history
- Describe your proposal review experience – which agency(ies), how many times?
Experience serving on NSF, NIH, or other proposal review panels

- Why did you do volunteer?
- Expectations *prior to a review panel meeting*?
  - How many proposals did you review?
    - Technical expert for all?
  - Time to read and review?
- What happens *during a panel meeting*?
  - Role of PO/SRO?
  - Describe the process for discussing proposals
- Differences between programs/directorates/study sections?
What shared characteristics made a proposal strong, memorable?
What shared characteristics made a proposal weak?
Surprising things you learned
How this experience affected your proposal writing?
Advice to those new to proposal writing
THANK YOU FOR COMING!

QUESTIONS?