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Day 1 - What, When, How?: Making Strategic Decisions about Grants in Your Research Career

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What, When, How?: Making Strategic Decisions about Grants in Your Research Career

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competitive grant writing, Jan. 12, 2016

The Plan

- Intros
- VCU IQ on expectations for external funding
- Before you leap: Infrastructure needs
- Sources & Types of Funding
- Time for Questions, Discussion Throughout

Do you HAVE TO have external funding?

- Question posed :

Is successful external funding an EXPLICIT requirement for promotion and tenure?

Polled people who should know from 13 units, both campuses. 11 (84.6%) responded.

How many said

- Yes, explicit requirement?
- No, not explicit but expected?
- No, not a requirement?

The Reveal

- 2 = Yes, explicit requirement
- 5 = Not explicit requirement but expected
- 4 = No, not a requirement

Almost 2/3 said you need some external \$\$

The Critical Nuances from Respondents

(step away from the ledge)

- Many categories of external funding
- Not expected to be the PI of a major federal award
- Units with many departments will likely have different expectations across departments

Homework: Do a 180 degree analysis

- Dean, Research Dean, Dept. Chair, P&T Chair
- Trusted senior mentors within & without
- CVs of recently promoted colleagues
- Read your P & T document!!!!!!

Look Before You Leap: Infrastructure Checklist

Pre Award

- Identify opportunities?
- Develop budget and know the rules?
- Prepare ancillary application forms?
- Communication with OSP?
- Assistance with biosketches, references etc?
- Provide timely critique?

Infrastructure, cont'd

Post Award

- Processing award documents?
- Handling expenditures?
- Hiring personnel?
- Trickle down of indirect costs?
- Preparing performance reports, close outs?

Think Broadly About Opportunities

- Sub contracts with others very cool
- Don't forget about Foundations
- State agencies may have relevant funding
- Can get a lot of work done on training grants

Geez, What About My Great Ideas??

- Clearly necessary but **not sufficient**
- Need **team** that convinces reviewers the work can be accomplished
- **Scour** the RFA/RFP/Solicitation: is it really a match for your brilliance?
- Plan, plan, plan, write, write, write
- Revise, revise, revise, revise, revise

Let's Talk