Grants Submissions Process: an Overview

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Office of Sponsored Research (OSR)
SUNY Institute of Technology

SUNYIT, February of 2012.
Outline

Review of main issues associated with:

- Determining areas of strength
- Finding research partners
- Planning/writing/submitting a Proposal
- Sponsor’s evaluation results
- Implementation/re-evaluation
- Closing the cycle
Step 1: Strengths and Areas

- Types of Academic Scholarship (Boyer):
  - Discovery (hard core; theoretical in nature)
  - Integration (putting the above in perspective)
  - Application (solve specific societal problems)
  - Teaching (methods, theories, applications)

- Determining one’s areas of interest
- Analyzing one’s strengths/weaknesses
- Deciding on appropriate Research Area
Step II: Researching the Area

- Creating research mechanisms: COS/Piv.
- Data Bases: NSF, NIH, NEH, NIST, DOD
  - Search topic, deadline, funding, partnering
- Researching Professional Organizations
  - ASEE, IEEE, ASCE, ASME, Nat’l Academies
- Attending/Presenting at Conferences
- Journal publication, editing, reading, etc.
- Social Networks (LinkedIn, SUNY, other)
Step III: Finding Partners

- Who is doing what, where, when, how?
  - How do you find out? COS/Pivot
- Piggy Backing in existing/new projects
- Creating a Network of interested people
  - On Campus, SUNY-wide, broader
- Sharing knowledge/past experiences
  - Small conferences, workshops, talks, panels
  - Learn from those more experienced
Step IV: Planning/Writing

- Contact sponsor of identified Topic
- Schedule work to meet deadlines
- Reading Homework: sponsor’s list
- Study Past Project Awards
- Reframe original idea to suit RFP
- Start writing your proposal (help?)
- Find Evaluators for Project Results
  - And other external expertise (consultants)
Step V: Submitting the Proposal

- Program Officers constant feedback
  - They will research you, too! (Past work)
- Write, re-write, revise, share
- Costing your proposal (OSR)
  - Time, equipment, evaluation, support, etc.
- Approvals (Department, College, IRB)
- Submission mechanisms (sponsors)
  - Fast Lane, Grants.gov: create an account
Step VI: Results

- Winning the award (1 in 5 times: NSF)
  - Paper work (Agency/OSR)
  - Conducting/managing the work
  - Periodic/Final Reports: SUNYIT & Albany

- Not Winning (4 out of 5 times, NSF)
  - Referee comments and soul searching
  - Award Statistics (see next slide)

- Closing the Proposal Cycle
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What Is the Issue?

- Success rate for research proposals was 20% in FY05, down from 30% in FY00
- Potential impact on merit review
  - Increased workload on reviewer community
  - Increased workload on NSF staff
- Potential loss of capacity
All R&RA directorates experienced a decline in funding rates between FY 2000 and FY 2005.
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Rate: 0.2

Expected values:
\[ E(X) = 4.9838 \]
\[ Var(X) = 19.4948 \]
\[ StDv(X) = 4.415288 \]

Probabilities

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TWELVE STEPS TO A WINNING RESEARCH PROPOSAL
George A. Hazelrigg
National Science Foundation P.O.

Twelve steps that are nothing more than common sense.

1. Know yourself
2. Know the program from which you seek support
3. Read the program announcement
4. Formulate an appropriate research objective
5. Develop a viable research plan
6. State your research objective clearly in your proposal
7. Frame your project around the work of others
8. Grammar and spelling count
9. Format and brevity are important
10. Know the review process
11. Proof read your proposal before it is sent
12. Submit your proposal on time
Discussion/Conclusions

- An overview: consider other steps/ways
- OSR mission is to support Faculty in
  - Submitting/obtaining research grants
- Other faculty needs, not considered?
  - General issues?
  - Individual issues?
  - Junior Faculty?
- Discussion and Questions.
- Thank-you!