Supporting Research Through Proposal Development

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• “The most important problems confronting science and society cannot be solved by researchers in individual scientific disciplines working in isolation.”

• “Scientific problems require the collaborative efforts of scientists who have different backgrounds, knowledge, perspectives, and expertise.”

The Shift to Proposal Development

• **Strategic, proactive, and capacity-building** activities designed to facilitate individual faculty members and teams of researchers in attracting extramural research funding

*Proposal development professionals:*

• Identify and disseminate funding opportunities
• Provide comprehensive support at all phases of the proposal preparation process
• Build bridges and networks
• Strategic advancement of research mission
LSU’s Research Facilitation Initiative

• Gretchen Rhodes (Proposal Development Specialist) and Crissie Molina (Technical Writer)
• Provides support for the development and submission of major grant proposals seeking funding for research and instruction activities in keeping with the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan and LSU Flagship 2020 Agenda
• Schedule and attend planning meetings, create and distribute agendas, action items, and timelines
• Draft letters of support, collect biosketches, facilities and resources, etc.
• Create budget and justification, liaison with external collaborators
• Edit all documents for flow, sentence structure, syntax, grammar, and style
• Format and paginate document, create table of contents, references, etc.
• Review proposal in its entirety to ensure it meets sponsor guidelines
Eligibility

• High impact proposals that could substantially increase the LSU research portfolio and/or enhance the research infrastructure

• Large scale multidisciplinary and multi-institutional initiatives that enable partnerships with industry, state agencies, and other stakeholders

• Projects that involve research within the 7 focal areas identified in the Strategic Plan

• Other considerations: investigator experience, sufficient timeline, availability of resources
1 Year In

• October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014

• Requested funding – $124,465,283

• LSU Annual Average (over last 6 years) – $468,273,076*

*OSP Submitted Activity Report
What can you do to increase proposal development services in your unit?

- Increase involvement throughout the proposal development process
- Encourage faculty to alert you to the proposal projects early on
- Schedule and attend meetings, take notes, distribute action items
- Become an expert on the RFP
- Prepare the budget and budget justification
- Collect the “extra bits” – biosketches, current & pending, facilities, etc.
- Identify yourself as the administrative point of contact for external collaborators

Adding proposal development services represents a culture change and will not happen overnight.
Targeted funding opportunity announcements

- Familiarize yourself with faculty research interests and identify funding opportunities that may be right for them
  - ORED Research Funding Newsletter
  - SMARTS Daily Alerts
  - NSF Daily Digest
  - Grants.gov Subscription Services
Support new hires

• Introduce yourself as a point of contact for proposal preparation
• Provide new faculty information on resources available to them at LSU
• Help faculty become acquainted with proposal routing and approval procedures at LSU
• Encourage junior faculty to attend ORED and OSP workshops
• Provide new faculty with information on the LA BoR Support Fund programs
• Identify a faculty mentor for advice on building funding portfolio
• Encourage faculty to volunteer to serve as a reviewer
Provide resources

• Create templates
• Maintain a comprehensive description of facilities and resources
• Keep biosketches and current and pending forms on file
• Have contact information for program evaluators available
• Collect ideas and best practices for education and outreach
• Create a database of successful proposals
What are your resources?

- Office of Research and Economic Development
- Office of Sponsored Programs
- ASP

Questions? Need assistance? Please feel free to contact us.

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Some of the material in this presentation was adapted from the following sources: