

NSF Response to the NSB Report on Reducing Administrative Burden



**National Science Board
Richard Buckius
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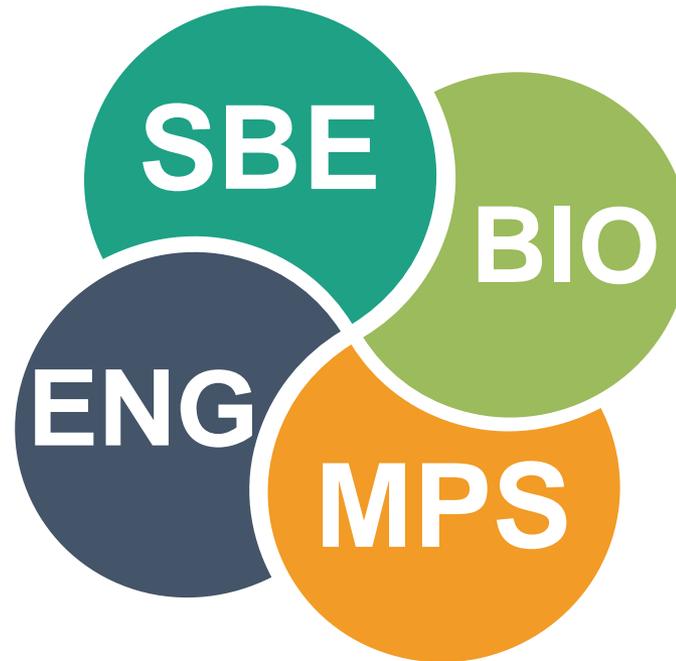
Background

In January 2015, NSF provided an update to the NSB Report, *Reducing Investigators' Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research*.

NSF senior leadership is engaging directorate staff to identify possible actions to reduce PI and NSF staff administrative burden. Considerations are related to proposal pilots, just-in-time submissions, IRB and IACUC actions, project reporting, and proposal development.

Proposal Pilots/ Just-in-time Submissions

SBE is testing one annual submission window with a limited number of proposals invited to revise and resubmit these proposals roughly six months prior to the annual submission deadline.



MPS and **ENG** will be conducting an experiment in FY16 that will involve only a budget justification for proposal submissions and full budgets for potential awards.

BIO is piloting a two-part annual cycle consisting of a 5-page preliminary proposal submission and panel review followed by invited full-proposal submissions and panel review.

MPS will waive requirement for budgets in MRSEC preliminary proposals.

Reporting Requirements/International Collaborations

EHR is exploring reducing reporting burden of annual reports.

ISE is considering convening a workshop and/or funding a community/coordination network that is focused on institutional efficiency and effectiveness for international engagements.

MPS is exploring a pilot to simplify/streamline the Annual Project Report for the first year of an Individual Investigator Award.



Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)



Beginning October 1, NIH/Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) will conduct and oversee all vertebrate animal assurances for NSF.



NIH/NSF/USDA plan to jointly fund some vertebrate animal training activities to improve IACUC training nationwide, with the ultimate intent to reduce burden for IACUCs and PIs.

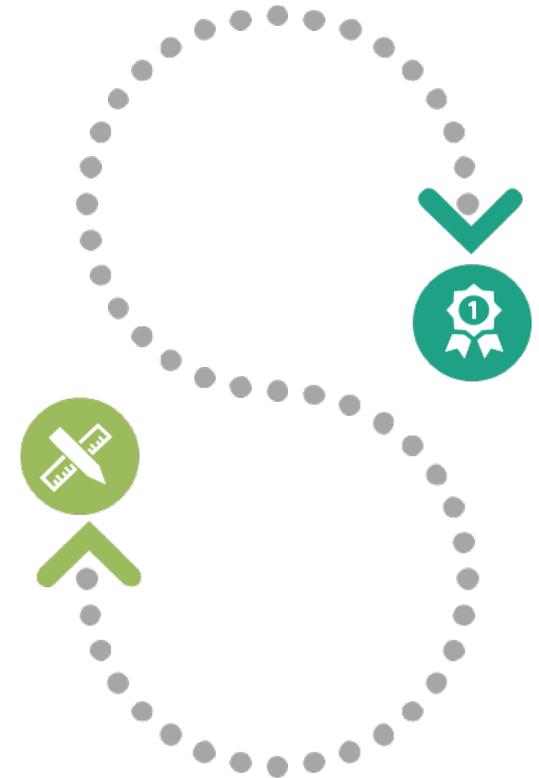
Assuring Proposal Compliance

Goals

- Enhance NSF proposal preparation and submission processes.
- Reduce administrative burden on PIs, organizations and NSF staff.
- Increase likelihood of proposal acceptance upon successful proposal submission in FastLane.

Approach

- Clarify policies and procedures in PAPPG.
- Standardize proposal formats.
- Further automate compliance checking.
- Reduce programmatic review to a minimum set of essential elements.



Returned without Review (RWR)

Full Proposals (FY14 reasons)

From FY05 to FY14, there were between 2.8% and 4.5% of research proposals returned without review.

Inappropriate for NSF



Duplicates a proposal in review



Did not address both merit review criteria in Project Summary



Received past the deadline



Not substantially revised



Format problem



Not responsive to solicitation, program announcement, or PAPPG

Questions?

