



Government Relations and U.S. University Technology Transfer

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January 28, 2015

Agenda:

- Introduction
- Stakeholders
- University Roles & Practices
- Challenges
- Summary

- US universities rely heavily on federal funding:
 - Universities and colleges received 50.8% of the \$31.0 billion total in federal obligations for basic research and accounted for 11.4% of total research and development obligations in FY 2012
 - Basic research at universities and colleges was estimated to increase to 11.8% of total R&D obligations in FY 2013 and was projected to grow to 12.5% in FY 2014

Source:

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf14318/>

Funding Agencies, 2012

- Five federal departments and agencies provided \$15.4 billion (98.3%) of all federal basic research obligations to universities and colleges:
 - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) \$9.2 billion (58.6%). (*Includes NIH*)
 - NSF \$3.8 billion (24.0%)
 - Department of Defense (DOD) \$1.2 billion (7.6%)
 - Department of Energy (DOE) \$0.7 billion (4.5%)
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) \$0.6 billion (3.7%)

Stakeholders

- Federal agencies
- Elected representatives
- Public Universities
 - State Governments
 - University governing boards / trustees
- Private Universities
 - University governing boards / trustees
- Investigators
- Students
- Public – taxpayers
- Corporations

- Public (state) universities:
- Strong role & commitment to economic development
 - Expectations of elected representatives
- Technology transfer / research office plays key role in economic development
- University federal & government relations (FR/GR) offices manage & control interactions with government agencies –
 - almost always, exclusively....

Challenges & (Best?) Practices

- The practice of university-government relations is complex
- Technology transfer offices must:
 - Acknowledge ‘rules of engagement’ with government agencies & particularly, elected officials
 - Be aware of current (legislative) issues
 - Be prepared to provide information to federal relations office – quickly!
 - Value and nurture relationships with colleagues in federal relations

When interacting with FR/GR & politicians:

- Representing the profession as a whole
- Deflect attention from individual professional
- AUTM represents practitioners, not universities – often overlooked

Summary

- Technology transfer professionals may benefit by engaging closely with their federal & other government relations colleagues
- Technology transfer professionals do not operate in isolation from society - & politics
- Whether or not we enjoy the engagement – we are affected by and dependent on politics, politicians & policies
- Maintaining knowledge of current events & developing close working relationships with federal other government relations colleagues is an important element of the technology transfer profession

Between FR/GR & TT

- Recognize and respect:
 - Boundaries
 - Roles & rules
 - Procedures & protocols
- Be aware of
 - Current (legislative) initiatives
 - Stakeholder points of view
 - History

Questions?