

Addressing Today's Opportunities and Challenges in Research Administration: Project Next

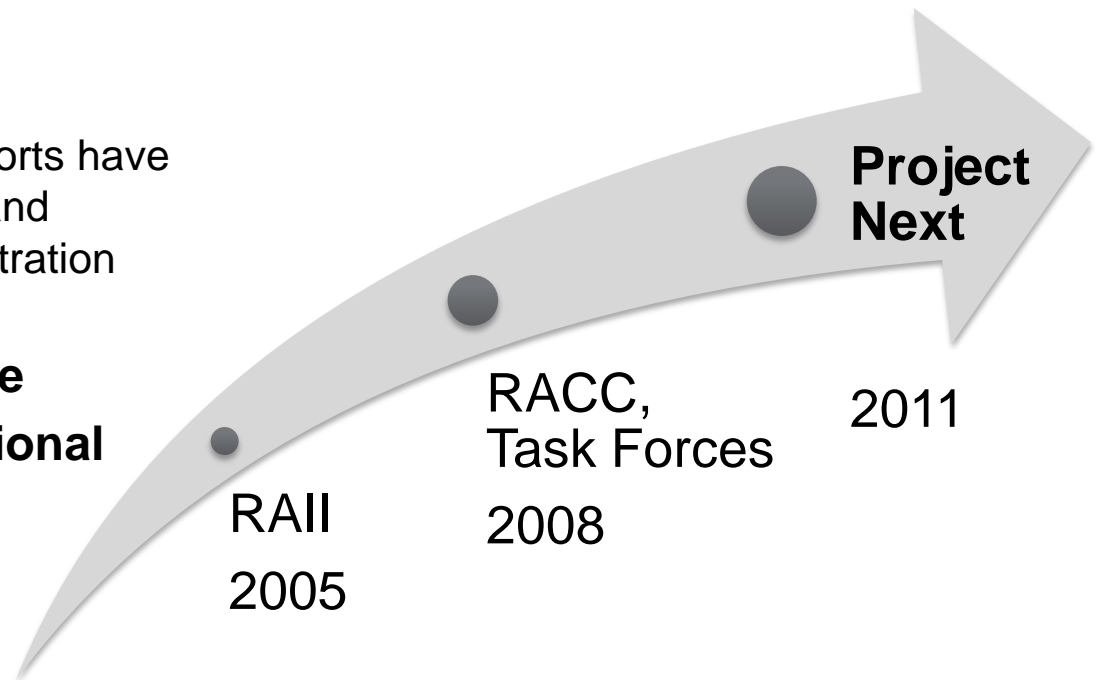
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Project Next: Initiatives that support the continuous improvement of research administration

Concerted campus-wide efforts have focused on understanding and improving research administration

- **Policy and procedure**
- **Roles and organizational structure**
- **Technology**
- **Training**



Project Next goals define real, pragmatic solutions that embody RAI, RACC, and OSP objectives

We're experiencing a rapidly changing climate of research administration

Heightened concern about federal funding cuts

Transparency, compliance requirements resulting in more reporting

More complex relationships, agreements

Demand for information access

More, varied sponsors needed

Complexity calls for flexibility from systems and processes that were designed for consistency

The changing climate of research administration: Challenges of increasing complexity

- Time pressure and resource constraints
- New kinds of sponsored projects generate more varied, often unpredictable, demands
- Compliance and consistency requirements are high
- Exceptional projects require continuous, collaborative communication to problem solve
- Frequent policy and process guidance required to respond to project developments

But we stand to gain a great deal if we address the
challenges

The changing climate of research administration: Responding to the Challenges

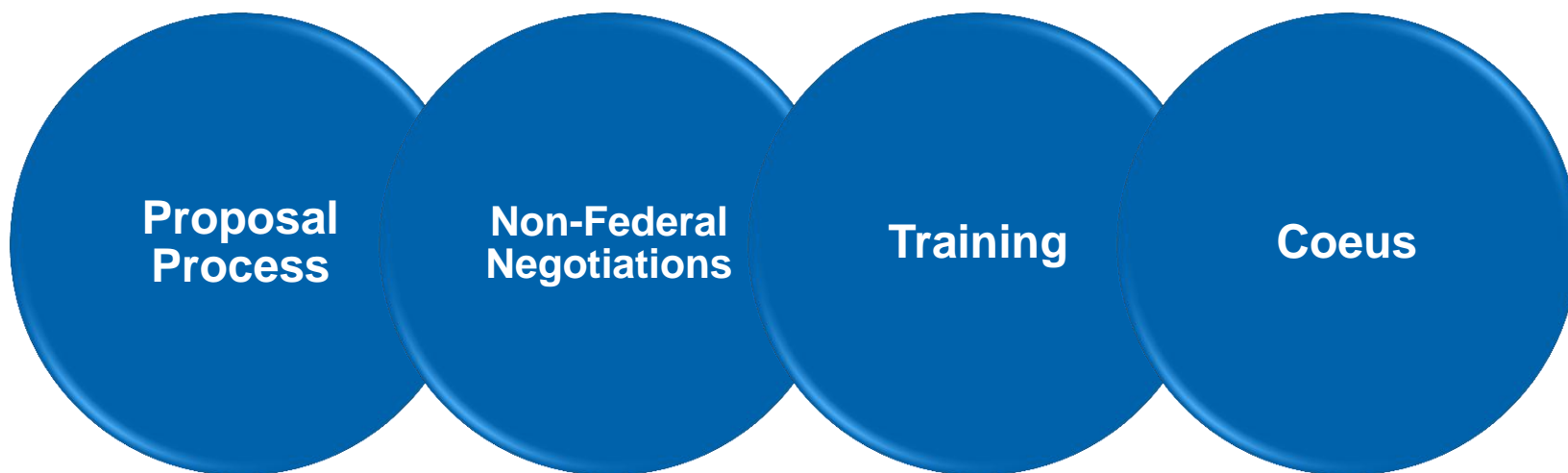
- Acknowledge that change is needed cooperatively address the consequent administrative needs
- Leverage or design “systems” that can respond to variable requests
 - Includes processes, procedures, policy-making, people, and technology
- Share learnings and develop innovative solutions from experience

How to respond to the challenges without being swept away on winds of change?

Project Next: How we'll approach the work

- Deliver recognizable and/or measurable benefit to the Institute
- Collaborate with stakeholders across campus
- Communicate regularly and broadly, as appropriate
- Cut unnecessary, redundant work for all parties
- Balance choice and standardization

Project Next: Integrated Solutions for What's Next In Research Administration



Project Next: Operating principles

Collaborate with stakeholders across campus

- Accomplishments
 - Surveyed PIs on satisfaction with, and ways to improve, negotiations of non-federal agreements
- Work in progress (targeted delivery dates in FY2012)
 - Revitalize fundamentals courses in collaboration with partners in the Office of the Vice President of Finance
 - Seek input on other cross-campus training needs

Project Next: Operating principles, cont'd.

Deliver recognizable and/or measureable benefit to MIT

- Accomplishments
 - Create solutions for ARRA, FFATA reporting
 - Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA) learning program
- Work in progress (targeted delivery dates in FY2012)
 - Improved non-federal negotiations

Project Next: Operating principles, cont'd.

Cut unnecessary, redundant work for all parties

- Accomplishments
 - Contract Administrator credentialing process
- Work in progress (targeted delivery dates in FY2012)
 - Automated email notifications for NSF training requirements for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
 - Award budget module for Reporting and Forecasting Tool (RAFT)
 - Centralize MIT Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) request website

Project Next: Operating principles, cont'd.

Communicate regularly and broadly

- Accomplishments
 - Reintroduced OSP Forums to provide regular, topical updates on research administration topics
- Work in Progress(targeted delivery dates in FY2012)
 - Improving communications with stakeholders throughout improved non-federal negotiations process

Project Next: Operating principles, cont'd.

Leverage technology to support business processes

- Accomplishments
 - OSP and Coeus websites
 - CITI on-line training modules for RCR
- Work in progress (targeted delivery dates in FY2012)
 - Transition routing of proposals from paper to Coeus
 - Streamline patent reporting process

What questions do you have?