

# COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 750, Washington, D.C. 20005

(202) 289-6655/(202) 289-6698 (FAX)

May 12, 2010

## AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

#### WASHINGTON MARRIOTT HOTEL

June 3 and 4, 2010

Planning information for the upcoming meeting of the Council on Governmental Relations was sent to the COGR Listserve in April 2010. Those planning to attend should make hotel reservations at the Washington Marriott Hotel at 1221 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and should send registration notices along with registration fees to the COGR office. Those planning to attend will want to make their travel and hotel reservations. There is a block of rooms reserved for COGR participants. After this block fills, reservations will be accepted only on a space and rate available basis.

The hotel has established May 18, 2010 as the cut-off date for receipt of reservations. There may still be rooms available at the hotel, but these would not have the COGR rate. For reservations already made, changes should be made by telephone to the hotel (202-872-1500) and by FAX to the COGR office (202-289-6698). Cancellations must be received in writing, via fax or mail, no later than Thursday, May 27, 2010 to receive a refund of the registration fee.

#### Thursday, June 3, 2010

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. – **Thursday Morning Sessions** – There will be three concurrent sessions:
- **Financial Conflicts of Interest – NIH Proposed Changes** - In anticipation of the allegedly imminent release of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) proposed revisions to its Objectivity in Research – Financial Conflicts of Interest (fCOI) policy, we are scheduling an open discussion among the membership of the proposed changes to inform COGR's response to a request for comments. We assume that the public will have at least 30 days to respond – we hope for a 60 day response period. The principal proposed changes will be outlined and discussed and debated.

If the proposed policy changes have not been issued on or before June 3, this session will focus on a number of items under review and consideration by COGR's Research Compliance and Administration (RCA) Committee. These items include the forthcoming implementation of the FFATA Sub-Recipient Reporting requirements, implementation of the peer review changes at NIH including the enhanced Vertebrate Animal Section review, and a policy paper under development by RCA addressing the need for streamlined compliance requirements, in general, to assist the research community in meeting its compliance goals and obligations. We'll talk

about these items throughout the rest of the year but will focus on them if the NIH fCOI policy changes fail to materialize in time.

- **Making a Case for F&A Reform** - This session will serve as a precursor to the Thursday afternoon session, “The Financial Viability of Research Universities and the Research Enterprise.” Whereas the afternoon session will focus on broad themes and current initiatives focused on F&A reimbursement, this session will look at actual experiences and practices related to F&A reimbursement. Some of the questions and topics we could address include:

- 1) F&A Rate Negotiation Process. How do the Division of Cost Allocation (DCA) versus Office of Naval Research (ONR) negotiation models affect F&A reimbursement? (Invited guests: DCA and ONR representatives)
- 2) Agency Cost Sharing and F&A Limitations. Other than Statutory restrictions (e.g., USDA, DOD caps), what agencies/programs are the most unfair and/or difficult to work with? Are there special considerations we should make for Non-Federal sponsors?
- 3) Internal Policies that allow F&A Waivers. Should we have more effective institutional policies and practices to monitor these situations?
- 4) Quantifying the Research Subsidy. The NSF Survey of R&D Expenditures asks for the institutional contribution related to Unreimbursed F&A (this data element is “confidential” and is not published in the survey). Can we quantify (do we want to know) the exact extent of research subsidy at our institutions?
- 5) Direct Charging of Administrative and Clerical Salaries. Can we advance arguments and positions that would support more flexibility in charging administrative and clerical salaries? Would faculty be supportive?
- 6) Other Direct Charging Opportunities. Are there other costs (e.g., IRB, Human Subjects) where direct charging models would be feasible?
- 7) Regulatory Burden. Are there “obvious” Federal regulations that we can suggest streamlining? Are there efficient practices we have developed?
- 8) Explaining F&A to Federal Policy Makers. Are there effective, new, or creative ways where we can explain F&A in 30 seconds, or less?

Your input is important! This session will include both a panel discussion and opportunities to provide your institutional perspectives. Some of the institutional perspectives that you share will help COGR to further articulate policy positions and strategies for engaging Federal officials.

- **Accessing Research Materials and Data; A COGR/NIH Discussion** - Description: Issues associated with access to materials and data for research purposes can be problematic for research institutions. We are all familiar with the issues involved in materials transfer agreements, sometimes even between non-profit research institutions. A COGR/NIH working

group has been working on a new simplified approach for use between research institutions, including NIH. This approach and other similar recent initiatives will be discussed.

Data access issues can also be challenging. Many NIH programs already require data sharing plans and NSF recently announced new requirements for data management plans. In addition, some NIH programs (e.g. caBIG) require institutions to make their data broadly available, raising considerations of storage, retrieval, and sharing mechanisms. Some NIH approaches to these issues for funding recipients and university experiences will be explored.

There also will be discussion of experiences with access to and licensing of genomic inventions. The intention is to have perspectives on these issues discussed by both COGR and NIH representatives.

- 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. – **Buffet Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – **Guest Speaker**
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- 2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. - **Break**
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. – **Science and Technology in America's Reinvestment Measuring the Effect of Research on Innovation, Competitiveness and Science** - The continued interest in getting accurate information about the impact of science combined with the success of the Star pilot program has resulted in a follow-on project entitled STAR METRICS. STAR METRICS is envisioned to be a multi-phase project that will evolve with time in response to the demands of stakeholders.

The STAR METRICS will create an inter-agency mechanism to account for the number of scientists and support staff that are on research institution payrolls supported by federal funds. STAR METRICS will build on this information in future to allow for measurement of science impact on economic outcomes, such as job creation, on scientific outcomes, such as the generation and adoption of new science, often measured by citations and patents, as well as on social outcomes such as public health. Second, it builds on and expands existing research tools with minimal burden for government agencies and grantees.

Panelists will be Dr. Julia Lane from NSF's Science of Science and Innovation Policy Program and Dr. Stefano Bertuzzi from the NIH Office of Science Policy. Joining Julia and Stefano on the panel will be Dr. Susan Sedwick, Associate Vice President for Research at the University of Texas-Austin, who participated in the pilot of the STAR Project.

- 3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – **Break**
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – **The Financial Viability of Research Universities and the Research Enterprise – F&A Reimbursement, Compliance Burdens and Related Issues** - There are a number of Federal officials that are reaching out to COGR and several of our association partners in an effort to understand our concerns related to F&A reimbursement and the associated administrative and compliance burdens. Simultaneously, two of our association partners, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the Association of

American Universities (AAU) are developing advocacy strategies and policy recommendations to seek changes to current Federal policies and regulations associated with research funding.

The panel will include representatives from APLU, AAU, and a University Financial Officer from a COGR member institution, and there will be opportunities for Q&A prior to the cocktail hour.

- 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. - **Reception**
- 6:30 p.m. - **Dinner**

### **Friday, June 4, 2010**

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 - **Buffet Breakfast**
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. - **COGR Committee Reports**

**Costing Policies**  
**Research Compliance and Administration**  
**Contract and Intellectual Property**

- 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - **Break**
- 10:30 – Noon – **Continue Committee Reports** – Discussion of questions submitted by the membership (**Members are encouraged to submit advance questions and issues for Friday morning discussion to [ataylor@cogr.edu](mailto:ataylor@cogr.edu)**)
- 12:00 Noon – **Adjournment**

Attendance at COGR meetings is limited to employees of member universities, their governing boards and research foundations, affiliated hospitals and affiliated research institutes.