FDP Strategic Planning Committee

Report to the FDP Membership: Strategic Plan for Phase VI

The FDP Vision – Our Picture of the Ideal Future

Researchers doing science, not administration

- The FDP is achieving measurable results in enabling researchers to do innovative science in an environment that supports accountability and business efficiencies.

- We have successfully completed several demonstrations that have resulted in improved administrative processes for research grants.

- The entire life cycle of electronic research administration from proposal submission to award close-out is consistent across Federal agencies.

We have a model partnership

- We have facilitated collaboration between Federal agencies and FDP member institutions, and such cooperation serves as a model throughout the research enterprise.

- We have rigorous processes in place to facilitate high priority demonstrations.

- We have a rapid response infrastructure in place to address emerging issues.

- The FDP has strong name recognition in Federal agencies, White House executive offices, institutions, and among Congressional staff.

- FDP members report activities showing engagement and involvement.

- Faculty and Federal program officials are actively engaged with the FDP.

- Senior level decision-makers in Federal agencies and FDP institutions are engaged in and champions of the partnership.

- There is a well-defined relationship between the FDP, the Government-University- Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

- We have common assessment tools that work to measure impact.

Themes for Phase VI

1. Maximize the time available for Principal Investigators and scientific staff to focus on research while reducing unnecessary administrative burdens.

2. Increase the efficiency of administrative and compliance practices while reducing inefficient or redundant agency requirements and institutional procedures and practices.

Goals for Phase VI

1. Successfully complete a minimum of five high priority projects.

2. Maintain an effective forum for ongoing collaboration to address current and emerging external issues.

3. Maintain effective ongoing communication with key stakeholders.

4. Ensure that the FDP has the right membership, structure, and active participation to carry out its mission in Phase VI.

Goals and Strategies

Goal 1. Successfully complete a minimum of five internally generated high priority projects during phase VI.

Projects designed to maximize the time available for Principal Investigators and scientific staff to focus on research while reducing unnecessary administrative burdens. (Theme #1)

Projects designed to increase the efficiency of administrative and compliance practices while reducing inefficient or redundant agency requirements and institutional procedures (Theme #2)

Strategies

1. Present Phase VI themes and goals to FDP membership at September 2014 meeting. Confirm broad support for the strategic plan.

2. Utilize rigorous process for clearly defining and scoping the projects using Lifecycle nomenclature.

    • Present Working Group results to FDP membership for approval and sign-up for participation.

    • By the start of Phase VI, for each major project or demonstration that will continue, have well developed implementation plans with clear timelines, exit strategies, and communication plans.

3. Identify, scope, address and manage emerging projects following approved process.

4. Track and manage progress and results on FDP website, conduct regular reviews and report annually to members on status and impact of projects.

5. Sunset projects after transition from "project" or "demonstration" to broad implementation across the FDP participant organizations and beyond.

6. Utilize systematic capacity / approach for surveys and data gathering for high priority projects with a clear plan for analysis and dissemination.

Goal 2. Maintain effective forum for ongoing collaboration to address current and emerging external issues.

Strategies

1. Clearly communicate to all members the goals of the information-sharing forum.

   • Review the goals of the forum on an annual basis.

   • Build "community" across Federal and institutional partner organizations.

   • Encourage external entities to use FDP as a sounding board.

   • Gather information to identify key issues and stay abreast of emerging trends.

2. Maintain effective process for dialogue with a diverse community that has a common culture and desire to support the FDP mission.

   • Continue to use the established "rapid response mechanism" (general and targeted FDP list servs) to solicit input of the membership on critical and urgent issues, both ongoing and newly-emerging.

   • Communicate to key stakeholders (e.g., GUIRR, Grants Policy Committee, Research Business Models, Grants.gov, etc.) the interest and willingness for the FDP to serve as a sounding board.

   • Report on key issues and FDP input/actions at FDP meetings.

Goal 3. Develop and implement effective strategy for communicating and engaging key stakeholders.

Strategies

1. Project a coherent message about the Federal Demonstration Partnership.

   • Continue to seek input from institutional and agency membership on the purpose, vision, priorities, results, etc. for the FDP.

   • Update effective communication tools (brochures, website, etc.) with the compelling message and distribute to FDP members; utilize effective technology to engage members and stakeholders as appropriate.

2. Define effective interfaces with key groups working on similar issues.

   • Meet with the chairs of the Council on Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR), the Research Business Models Subcommittee, representatives from GUIRR, Grants.gov, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to define roles, explore joint priorities and activities, and establish mechanisms for collaboration and reporting on results.

3. Develop and implement a strategy to enhance support from Federal partners.

   • Use GUIRR Council to showcase STAR METRICS project as way to engage Federal partners.

   • Report periodically to key Federal leaders on the issues and status of FDP projects, demonstrations, and other activities.

4. Ensure that each demonstration project plan includes an explicit strategy to engage and communicate with key stakeholders.

   • Ensure champions at senior levels across the Federal government and FDP institutions receive updates on projects.

5. Conduct follow-up faculty survey to assess progress and identify future needs.

   • Conduct Faculty Workload Survey (FWS) III of faculty in FDP institutions (before the end of Phase VI).

   • Communicate findings and recommendations from faculty survey to FDP members and key stakeholders.

6. Maintain effective outreach to member institutions and agencies.

   • Use developed tools to support consistent message and make it easy to do outreach.

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Goal 4. Ensure the Partnership has the right membership and structure to carry out the mission of Phase VI.

Key Principles

- Diverse perspectives add value to the research enterprise.

- In order to achieve its mission and vision, the FDP must be inclusive of all types of research institutions, including emerging research institutions.

- The FDP structure should provide for three essential elements: (1) effective leadership and management of FDP projects and demonstrations, (2) ongoing collaboration, and (3) operation of the FDP organization.

- FDP in Phase VI is expected to have the same composition of membership (administrators, faculty, technical representatives, Federal program officials, and Federal grants management officials).

- Assuming a relatively small number of high priority projects and demonstrations, the leader of each project or demonstration should have a seat at the Standing Subcommittee level.

- Standing Committees and Working Groups should be integrated by design to include both Federal and institutional representatives.

- Members are expected to contribute to the work and activities of the Partnership.

Strategies

- Maintain current diversity of member institutions (public/private/large/small).

- Implement an appropriate organizational structure to support Phase VI.

- Maintain an effective relationship with the FDP Foundation.

- Encourage participation by compliance officials in Phase VI Research Compliance projects.

- Implement new working groups and projects efficiently.

- Use sound business processes to support FDP operation.