ASEE EDC PPC
New Deans’ Orientation
Engaging Campus Federal Relations

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“Federal Relations Director”

- Varies with institution
- Coordination among deans, provost, vice-presidents and presidents
- Meet and engage regularly
- Demonstrate willingness to engage
- Learn campus process
Process

- 2 x year (September & January)
- Federal Director connects w/ADRs
- Federal Director reviews college inputs
- Federal Director discusses w/VPR
- Content developed (evolving document)
- Final version review by VPR and approved by President
**Legislative language preparation**

- Background/history of existing/proposed language
- Specific, “research-active” faculty are often key to particular issues
- **Research-active:**
  - membership on professional societies
  - continuous connection with sponsors “program managers”
  - leadership role in multi-university and/or other public/private partnership
- Decide on timing (too early ≈ too late)
- Advocacy from other “interested” universities
- Close feedback loops across campus and with other “supporters”
Managing expectations

- Focus on what can be influenced (versus general disappointment, individual frustration, or philosophical differences)
- Sync faculty expertise with authorizing/appropriating language
- Prioritize (minimize) list: assessing importance, urgency and likelihood of intended outcomes
- Outcomes are not guarantees
- Coordinate communications during the entire process (balance between ‘getting-out-in-front” and a lack of transparency)
- Clarify how faculty can (and “will”) assist the congressional delegation throughout the process
Putting Good Ideas to Work