

ASEE EDC PPC
New Deans' Orientation
Engaging Campus Federal Relations

February 6, 2017
Washington, DC

John M. Mason, Jr.

Vice President for Research and Economic Development



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH

“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 \approx 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





AUBURN UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH

Putting Good Ideas to Work