

AC 2010-530: PANEL DISCUSSION: RESEARCH AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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Panel Discussion: Research and Funding Opportunities

Abstract

The panel that is being proposed for inclusion in the Women in Engineering Division will include panelists from various federal and non-profit funding agencies. The topics that will be addressed include availability of funds for new and seasoned faculty including any new programs, guidelines for a successful proposal and common mistakes made by proposing faculty and researchers. The agencies that will be targeted for inclusion in the panel will be the National Science Foundation with representatives from the Division of Undergraduate Education and Division of International Affairs, National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy, Department of Education, and Sloan Foundation to name a few. The panel will be beneficial to all faculty and especially so to newer faculty who are navigating the availability of funding and determining the guidelines for a successful proposal at the various agencies. There will be also time allotted for a question and answer session so that specific concerns of attending faculty and researchers can be addressed.

Introduction

The panel is intended to discuss federal and non-federal funding opportunities for faculty with a wide range of research interests. The panelists have been identified and most of the agencies that are targeted are federal agencies including National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Health (NIH), and Department of Education. In addition, a representative from a non-profit National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) has also been invited. A sample series of questions for the panelists have also been formulated and responses were requested from the panelists but due to time constraints and other commitments by the panelists, no responses have been received.

Panelists and Possible Questions

The panelists who have already confirmed attendance at the panel are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Panelists who will be attending the panel

Name	Agency Represented
Larry Weber or another representative	Office of International Science and Engineering National Science Foundation
Jennifer Keller Jackson or another representative	National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance
Cosette Ryan or another representative	Faculty Development Fellowships Program Department of Education
John Haller	National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
Russell L. Pimmel	Division of Undergraduate Education National Science Foundation

In addition to having identified potential panelists that will be of interest to the wider engineering community that is expected to attend the Annual ASEE conference, some sample questions have also been formulated which is subject to change. Some of these questions are listed below.

1. What is the general process that reviewers would go through to select proposals?
2. What are some general characteristics of funded proposals?
3. What are some common things that keep proposals from being competitive for funding?
4. How has the funding climate changed in relation to the current economic situation?
5. Are there priority areas within your funding agency that has a higher probability of getting funded?
6. Are there any new initiatives within your agency that faculty should be aware of?
7. Are there any special initiatives targeted at faculty in their pre-tenure years?
8. What would be the best approach to take if faculty are interested in participating in a review panel to understand the review process better?

Based on the panelists that have agreed to participate and the topic, which is of interest for most faculty in attendance, it is expected that the panel will be well attended and well received. It also promises to be an informative event.