

Roundtable: Funding Opportunities (Barbara Duncan, facilitator)

There was a little initial discussion about how confusing funding opportunities can be and the need for ongoing interpretation when the guidelines are inconsistent with themselves and badly written.

We then switched to a discussion of distributing funding announcements to faculty and the problem with not knowing if one is making a difference or actually helping faculty by this approach.

One model for disseminating funding opportunities was sending them to Deans or Associate Deans for Research who can then distribute them to key people with better targeting. This works best for larger universities where central offices do not know faculty interests as well as at smaller schools.

Another suggestion was a monthly newsletter approach using applications like "Mail Chimp" (<http://MailChimp.com>) that include tracking metrics so you can track who is reading the funding announcements.

Participants also mentioned the efficacy of simply "living" near faculty (having an office in their building) so that one could more easily run into people and discuss current opportunities/ideas.

Limited submission notices and managing those also came up in this session with an interesting approach of including two deadlines: one for a basic letter of interest with potential team participants, and then another deadline for an actual white paper (submitted for internal review.) This has the benefit of keeping the internal process going more smoothly since administration has an early notification of who on campus might be interested in the program (or not) and can also help in establishing appropriate review groups if necessary and/or setting up collaborations.