Update on the Berkeley Research Development Office (BRDO)

David Trinkle
RAC Forum
February 17, 2015
What We Do

The Berkeley Research Development Office was created to:

- Facilitate the development of large/complex and strategic proposals;
- Broadly increase research funding on campus;
- Decrease faculty burden in applying for funding.
Who We Are

Dave Trinkle, Director

Erica Whitney, Senior Research Development Analyst

Kim Baeten, Research Development Fellow

Barbara Ustanko, Research Development Analyst

Kate Spohr, Research Outreach Specialist

(Matt Andrews, Program Manager, Limited Submissions, Exceptional PI Requests)
BRDO Roles on Campus

UC Berkeley research enterprise

- Perform strategic analysis of R&D funding
- Help develop research initiatives
- Monitor and influence funding opportunities
- Help connect researchers with opportunities
- Facilitate proposal development
- Provide proposal training and resources
- Support project launch

Large, complex proposals
Other strategic priority areas
Other proposals

Primary Targets
## More specific roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hands-on support for specific opportunities</th>
<th>Finding Funding</th>
<th>Proposal Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Clarify PI/group interests</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Organize, contribute to, and edit proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consult on likely sponsors (coordinate w/other offices)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Search for funding opportunities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Longer-term, proactive support              |                 |                 |
| • Gather intel. about sponsor needs and upcoming opportunities |                 | • Prepare group for future opportunities |
| • Anticipate recurring RFAs                 |                 | • Facilitate teams |
| • Influence sponsors                       |                 |                 |

| Broad, campus-wide support                 |                 |                 |
| • Provide training and web-resources to assist use |                 | • Train faculty and staff |
| • *(Some listing of recent announcements?)* |                 | • Provide written guides, etc. |
|                                           |                 | • Develop infrastructure to facilitate research proposals |
How BRDO fits into the proposal process

- We avoid duplicating services of CSS or SPO.
- More of an optional service for the PI team:
  - Advise and help organize the proposal team;
  - Help interpret solicitation, agency guidelines, and reviewer comments;
  - Help with framing, editing, narrative flow, and overall consistency and polish;
  - Help conceptualize non-research aspects of the proposal (e.g., management plan, broader impacts);
  - Initial compliance checks to smooth process through CSS and SPO;
  - May help coordinate interactions with other offices.
  - Support site visits and reviews.
Recent BRDO-Assisted Proposals

Recent proposals include:

- NSF: NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program
- NSF: Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site
- DOE/ARPA-E: Delivering Efficient Local Thermal Amenities (DELTA)
- NSF: All three approved Science and Technology Center (STC) Proposals
- NSF: All three approved Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Proposals
- NASA (Sub to UCSC): NASA Academic Mission Services (NAMS)
Training and Proposal Writing Resources

- Lead workshops, lectures, and other in-person training sessions.
- Provide tutorials for finding funding, writing proposals, and understanding agency review processes.
- Maintain templates for common grant sections.
Highlights of President’s FY16 Budget

- Administration priorities:
  - BRAIN Initiative ($300M)
  - Low-carbon energy research
  - Advanced manufacturing
- +$1B for NIH.
- Large increases for advanced computing at DOE.
- 40% increase for USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.
- Large increases for NOAA climate and ocean acidification research.
- New initiatives: antibiotic-resistant bacteria and precision medicine.
BRDO Plans for the Future

- Increasing research development roles:
  - Increase assistance monitoring funding opportunities
  - Continue to develop proposal-related resources, including broader impacts support
  - Provide more proposal-related training