

YOU MAKE THE CALL! TOUGH DECISIONS FOR DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS

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What is the job of a DRA?

- ☐ Pre-award specialist
- ☐ Post-award specialist
- ☐ Facilities manager
- ☐ Human resources rep
- ☐ Effort specialist
- ☐ Procurement guru
- ☐ Counselor
- ☐ Cheerleader
- ☐ Advocate
- ☐ All of the above and more...

“You gotta serve somebody.” B. Dylan

- Who is your customer?
 - ▣ Faculty
 - ▣ Department
 - ▣ Institution
 - ▣ Sponsor
 - ▣ John Q. Public
- To whom do you owe your allegiance?
- How do you decide?

What comes first?

- What are your top priorities?
 - ▣ Getting grants
 - ▣ Managing grants
 - ▣ Compliance (and all that encompasses)
 - ▣ Faculty/staff/student happiness
 - ▣ Research productivity
 - ▣ Institutional reputation
 - ▣ Other?
- How do you decide amongst competing priorities?

Perennial Problem Area No. 1

Poor PI/lab staff grant management
practices

Perennial Problem Area No. 2

HR Galore

Hiring

Firing

Personal Problems at Home

Badly Behaving Faculty

And on and on

Perennial Problem Area No. 3



Compliance and safety violations

Perennial Problem Area No. 4



Delinquent project reporting

Perennial Problem Area No. 5

Lab downsizing (space and staff)

It sucks.

It will depress you.

Plan. Plan. Plan. And plan some
more!

Perennial Problem Area No. 6

Space requests

Perennial Problem Area No. 7

Cost sharing requests

Perennial Problem Area No. 8

Bridging support

Perennial Problem Area No. 9

Competing deadlines/too many
proposals at once