The Power of Metrics in Research Administration

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Session Description

 Over the past decade, many institutions have invested in institutional systems that can be leveraged to support metric analysis. Duke University is one of these universities and they have built a comprehensive structure for utilizing their data to support, build, and manage their operations. At Duke University, they have institutional systems for proposal submission, purchasing, travel, ledger, closeout, post-award processes, training, etc. The data from these systems is integrated to create monitoring metrics for cost-transfers, effort reporting, and other compliance requirements and is now available for data mining, analysis, and visualization to support the research mission and faculty more effectively. The integrated data supports improved compliance, business operations, workload management and more at the department, school, and institutional levels.



Objective

- Learning Objectives:
 - Participants will be able to describe <u>how a university</u> <u>can utilize data</u> to support, build, and manage their operations.
 - Participants will learn ways that integrated data can support improved compliance, business operations and workload management.
 - Participants will understand some methods that other institutions are utilizing to <u>gather</u>, report, and <u>share</u> <u>metrics</u>.

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Today's Discussion

- Brief review of key points of Metrics
- Diving in to learn about a comprehensive structure for research administration metrics

- Duke University



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KEY POINTS: RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION METRICS

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Research Administration Metrics

- What is a metric?
- What is a Key Performance Indicator (KPI)?







Transparency

- Share results
- Set expectations
- Acknowledge
- Recognize
- Drives Performance







Metrics for Research Administration

- Statistics: #/\$ of awards, proposals, expenditures, reports, invoices; # of subawards processed, # of cost transfers;
- **Time Measurements:** Contract negotiation time; award setup time; response time;
- Ratios: Cash collection; workload;
- **Feedback:** Satisfaction Surveys; Other feedback methods;

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A Well-Built Structure for Metrics

- Communicates to staff where focus should be directed
- Provides staff with the opportunity to be recognized for accomplishments and achieve goals that will "really matter"
- Emphasizes priorities and progress to customers
- Communicates reality
- Supports the goals of the organization



Largest Mistakes Made With Metrics

- Not developing an organized structure for which metrics are captured and simply gathering/reporting what you can
- Believing that we can capture any metric we want
- Providing the metrics because we can get them easily get from our system
- Developing metrics for many areas and expecting success across the board
- Not carefully evaluating and communicating what a metric means



How are metrics captured and shared

- Via
 - ERP Software
 - Routing Systems
 - Help Desk Software
 - Survey Software
 - Other sources including Access Databases, Excel Spreadsheets or even in manual logs
- Shared via reports, dashboards
 - Often using software such as Tableau, Endeca, OBIEE or
 - other business intelligence/analytics software

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DUKE UNIVERSITY A MODEL FOR METRICS





<u>"Not everything that counts can be</u> counted, and <u>not everything</u> that can be counted counts."

– Albert Einstein









Background

Research Admin at Duke

- Research Funding:\$1B (\$650 Federal) and 10,000 projects
- Decentralized Post-award (1 office) and Pre-award (3 offices) / Approximately 600+ GM's & "Ghosts"
- "New" and Evolving Systems with Workflow, Status Transparency, and Operational & Management Reporting
 - Lots of data points from many, many systems...
- Foundation

Structure

Examples

Integration

Summary

- Leadership support (RACI): very engaged...
- Desire for accountability & transparency
- IT Infrastructure SAP & Tableau (data visualization)
- Progress has been a combination of "Evolution" and "Revolution"

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THE "EVOLUTIONARY" AND "REVOLUTIONARY" GROWTH OF THE USE OF METRICS

EVOLVING MODEL COMPLIANCE REACTIVE DIAGNOSTIC (ROOT CAUSE) PREDICTIVE (ALGORITHM BASED)



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Research Costing & Compliance (RCC)

• The Office of <u>Research Costing Compliance</u> (RCC) constantly monitors the state of financial research compliance at Duke University. Through analysis of financial data and with input from the Management Centers, RCC Monitoring provides both targeted input and assistance in remediation of risk issues.

• Approach to Compliance Management (MIR)

- Monitor: Assessment of Current Status through data collection and analysis
- Integrate: RCC strives to integrate monitoring with measures that mitigate risk to Duke University. RCC therefore coordinates basic data monitoring with:
 - Education and Training
 - Communication
 - Policy and Procedure review
 - Review/Enhancement of System/Internal Controls
- Remediate: Achieved through:
 - Regularly scheduled meetings with Management Centers
 - Enhanced reporting in response to Management Centers and RCC identified needs
 - Collaborative work with University IT groups to achieve technology solutions
 - Comprehensive training and updates for grant managers
 - Direct intervention in departments (answering departments' requests for training and clarifications)

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Structure

Examples

Integration

Summary

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Research Costing Compliance (RCC) Training

- Mandatory Compliance Education (PI, GM, BM)
- AAR Training (Allowability, Allocability, & Reasonableness) to support technology rollouts and front-end controls
- Certification Programs (based on HR Classification)
 - Includes: comprehensive testing, mentors, lead trainers, class projects
- FasTracks Content specific classes

Structure

Examples

Symposium – 500+ staff members in day-long breakout sessions



EXAMPLES OF METRICS














Portfolio Complexity Index (PCI)

Key Elements

- Complexity of Portfolio (Pre and Post-award)
- Sponsored Project Workload (\$ and #)
- Workload Variability (# of different sponsors and PIs)

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<u>Examples</u>

Integration

Summary



- Responsible Financial Person in Support of PI for all financial aspects of Grant Oversight
 - Allowability Management: allocability, reasonableness & allowability of all expenditures charged to the grant
 - Effort Management: management of effort commitments, overcommitments, etc.
 - Budget Management: management of budget

In many cases, the GM will be personally responsible for these activities and in other situations there may be multiple parties involved, but ultimately the GM is responsible to the PI for management of these three aspects of project oversight.

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Structure

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Integration

Summary





















PCI Regression Factors

		Varia	ables Predictin						
		Fund code	Applicant	Contract	Funding Mechanism	Sub-accounts	PCI Score = sum of (Score*Multiplier) for all 5		
Rai	nge of Scores	1-5	1-3	no=2, yes=3	1-5	1-6	variables plus the intercept from the regression equation		
Multiplie	er from regression equation	0.522	0.918	0.599	0.603	0.082	nom me regre	ssion equation	
Example 3	Data	3080156	DHHS, PHS, NIH, NCI	No	F	0	Intercept	Row Total =	
	Score	1	3	2	1	1		PCQ	
	Score*Multiplier	0.522	2.754	1.198	0.603	0.082	-4.756	0.40	
Example 4	Data	3033246	DHHS, PHS, NIH, NCI	No	Р	0			
	Score	5	3	2	5	1			
	Score*Multiplier	2.610	2.754	1.198	3.015	0.082	-4.756	4.90	

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<mark>ucture</mark>	Sample PCI Data (Phase 2)																			
Str	-						3M Work	load Data	a (sum of	f all depts/u	nits GM serves				•	Scores	- °0,		97	
les 6																.46	Com	prehensive	PCI	
d																	(K+L)/2	(M+N+O)/3		
an		Α	B	C	D	E	F	G	H		J	K	L	M	N	0	Р	Q	R	
on Ex	,	/Igmt Ctr	Schoo	lDept/Unit	DUID	Name	#of Pis	# of Sponso rs	# of Project s	Total Transacti ons	Total Expenditures	Pis	Sponsor s	Projects	Transactio ns	Expenditur es	Variability PCI (Pis + Sponsors)/2	Workload PCI (Projects + Transactions + Expenditures)/ 3	Project PCI (from regtrssion analysis)	
t i	Г		_				7	6	8	150	190,124	4	3	2	2	2	3.5	2.0	2.5	
							2	5	13	588	478,424	2	3	3	2	2	2.5	2.3	2.9	
e.							2	2	2	6	10,500	2	2	1	1	1	2.0	1.0	2.4	
<mark></mark>							4	6	23	3,840	6,260,714	3	3	4	5	5	3.0	4.7	2.4	
							22	25	90	10,309	10,403,326	5	5	5	5	5	5.0	5.0	3.1	
							13	10	52	2,991	2,359,918	5	4	5	4	4	4.5	4.3	2.8	
<mark>nma</mark>			GN	1 "1"				11	38	3,964	3,865,357	5	4	4	5	5	4.5	4.7	2.4	
Sun							1	8	9	3,199	695,105	1	4	3	4	3	2.5	3.3	2.8	
			GN	1 "2"				4	5	1,220 889	1,164,943	2	3	2	3	3	2.5	2.7	4.0	
								29	υc	1,310	3,098,810	c	c	С	c	c	0. 0	5.0		
(4						1	2	2	73	143,681	1	2	1	1	2	1.5	1.3	2.9	
							24	23	114	3,935	5,537,172	5	5	5	5	5	5.0	5.0	2.8	
							2	2	2	450	-199	2	2	1	1	1	2.0	1.0	3.7	
				1			(0	8	100	190,124	4	3	2	2	2	3.0	2.0	2.5	



PCI Summary

- 1. Methodology is very complex; primary driver is the regression analysis which takes all of the subjective decision-making out of the process (e.g. should a DoD contract be weighted higher than a Gates Foundation grant with 10 foreign subcontracts).
 - 1. The regression analysis determined which fields should be used and these were vetted with the PCI development team, central offices reps, and then dept'l reps.
- 2. And most importantly, this is only one element, albeit quantitative, that should be taken into account when being used by HR and department.

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Structure

<u>Examples</u>

Integration

Summary





- Are the right people in the right roles?
 - Who is in the submitter and approver roles for the various technologies?
 - Are they trained/certified appropriately?
 - Does their individual workload appear reasonable?
 - Does management have a process to monitor and adjust for Workload & Complexity?
 - Do the GM's have adequate time to meet with the PI's? Should their be a workload redistribution?
 - Is the correlation between workload, complexity, training, and metrics reasonable?





- Are you utilizing the systems with the most efficient / effective controls?
 - What are the transaction categories with the largest volumes (\$ and #)? Do you have adequate controls?
 - Have you "over" developed a control structure for low risk/count transactions? Have you "under" developed others?
 - What is the absorption rate and utilization of new technologies? Can data be used to drive higher adoption of transactions with stronger internal controls?















PCI Integration is a composite report that combines both Pre-award and Post-award PCI ٠ analyses and provides a comprehensive overview of portfolio complexity, portfolio variability and workload

Structure

Supports departmental decisions regarding workload assessment and assignments and to • provide improved availability to PCI related information.





KIBCE

Key Indicators of the Business Control Environment



Key Indicators of the Business Control Environment (Risk Assessment Overview)

Indicator Areas

- **Personnel** Integration of Multiple Data Points
 - PCI (Pre and Post-award Comparative Date Distribution of Complexity)
 - Training Status
 - Workload & Variability
- RCC Metrics Cost Transfers, Effort Reporting, etc.
- Procurement Methods

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Key Indicators of the Business Control Environment

- Objective
 - Control Document Development and Review
 - Support the Department / School / Management Center's review
 - Provides management tool for department to
 - Manage distribution of grant workload (in conjunction with PCI)
 - Ensure training requirements are being met in conjunction (with Training Tracker)
 - Track the absorption and utilization of new technologies (e.g. Buy@Duke, Travel)

Represents a <u>portion</u> of the <u>quantitative</u> input into the process; not comprehensive and <u>does</u> <u>not include subjective data</u>. Provides "context" so that management has a frame of reference when determining risk.

NCURA Supporting Research...*together*[™] Score (Scale 1 - 5 (high risk))

ndicator Area -	Dept 1		Average = 4.08					
Personnel								
Wo	orkload	3	Moderate workload per FTE					
PC	I (Distribution of Complexity)							
	Pre-award	4	Moderate Complexity					
	Post-award	3	Moderate Complexity					
Tra	ining Status	5	Minimal certification in key roles					
Procureme	ent Methods	5	Minimal Apparent Front-end Controls					
RCC Metrie	cs	4.5	Extremely high CT's / Moderate CAS					
ndicator Area -	Dept 2		Average = 2.14					
I CISOINIC	' Vorkload	2	l ow workload per FTF					
F	PCI (Distribution of Complexity	/)						
	Pre-award	2	Very Low Complexity					
	Post-award	4	High Complexity					
Т	Training Status	2	75% GM's certified					
Procurem	ent Methods	2	45%: Minimal Front-end Controls					
RCC Metr	ics	1	Low #/% of CT's and CAS					
<u> </u>								
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Key Success Factors – PCI

- Derivation Issues
 - Post-award
 - Reliability of GM Field: GM field needs to be consistently populated and updated.
 - Pl's and GM's have a one-to-many and many-to-many relationship making derivation complex
 - Pre-award
 - Direct supporting relationship of GM to PI is not clear (not specifically identified in master data)
- Other Factors & Subjectivity
 - Regardless of Complexity analysis, there will still be subjectivity applied to the process
 - Years experience, Level of Autonomy, Portfolio variation, Quality of work, Certification/Education, Number of PI's supported, Specific PI requirements, Transaction Volume, Impact of supporting both Post & Pre activities
 - Other Responsibilities






Summary

- "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts." – Albert Einstein
- Building infrastructure and business case will take time
- Proactive \rightarrow Evolutionary <u>&</u> Revolutionary

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Structure

Examples

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Summary

