

Report and Recommendations
NORTHEAST MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING

November 20, 2019
8:00-9:00 am Teleconference

Chair, Brad Hillman (Rutgers)

Members: Matt Wilson (WVU), Gary Thompson (PSU), and Pat Vittum (UMass)

Approval of [MAC Report, October 16, 2019 \(click to view\)](#)

- **The October 16, 2019 MAC Report was approved unanimously**

NERA Planning Grant

1. Recap of October 16, 2019 discussion
 - Background: Faculty members at several NERA institutions cannot apply for NERA planning grants because of the requirement by the institution to recover F&A costs.
 - Two strategies for accommodating all NERA institutions:
 - i. Principal investigator (PI) submits proposal to NERA, NERA funds proposal with a lump-sum check to the PI
 - ii. PI submits proposal to Station Director, Director chooses to endorse the PI and team and inform NERA of intent to fund. Funding will be provided by the PI's institution. The planning grant funds dedicated to the proposal are then subtracted from the following year's NERA assessment.
 - Should decisions on planning grants reside with the MAC or does that require NERA approval?
2. Further discussion on NERA Planning Grant RFP
 - Funding by Reimbursable Cost vs Lump Sum
 - i. Reimbursement prevents the PI from not following through on their budget plan and sitting on the balance of the lump sum
 - ii. Reimbursement is more expedient given the amount of money being small (\$7k)
 - Station Directors making decisions
 - i. Uneven playing field – some NERA Directors sit on the MAC, some are positioned advantageously for expedient submission
 - ii. If a Director submits 7 applications, will \$70k in awards from NERA be guaranteed?
 - iii. If a PI submits an application through their station Director, the Director should apprise the MAC of the submission
 - iv. An advertisement and application mechanism for participants should be in place for proposals submitted by a Director

- Ideas for 2020
 - i. Should we try the new RFP model and allow any institution to use either path? e.g. RFPs are submitted either to the PI's home station Director or directly to the MAC
 - ii. Overhead issue could still be solved if we continue to route applications through the MAC only
 - iii. Allowing two paths for submission will likely increase NERA's investment in Planning Grants
- Moving forward
 - i. **All NERA Planning Grant proposals will be submitted to the OED by station Directors and reviewed by the MAC prior to approval**
 - ii. **Limit the number of submissions annually by each NERA station**
 - iii. **The RFP will have a rolling deadline**
 - iv. **NERA OED will remind the association quarterly**
 - v. **Proposals can be funded either by a check up front or by a reduction of the following year's assessment supported by an itemized invoice**