

Research Administration & Research Development

Two sides of the same coin



Office of Research & Economic
Development Seminar Series

August 26, 2021

Welcome to MSU and the Office of Research & Economic Development!

- ▶ The ORED Seminar Series
- ▶ Today's program format and features (chat, slides/recording, questions following the presentation)
- ▶ Please share feedback and ideas for future programs through the seminar evaluation

Why this topic?

- There are many layers of support available to faculty and staff in the pursuit of external funding, and “who does what” can be confusing – even to us sometimes!
- MSU’s full team of Administration and Development support personnel serve all faculty and staff grantseekers, not only those with a research appointment.
- Growth in the world of sponsored projects has been exponential in the last 10-20 years, with more specialization, more rules, and therefore, more opportunities.



What is a “Research Administrator?”

- Professionals who, *for their organization*, provide the infrastructure for and facilitate the success of research, outreach, and service programs funded by external sources through provision of specific services by specialization - and there are many!
- Facilitate resources, build relationships, ensure compliance, safety, and stewardship
- Promote opportunity and professional growth for colleagues and stakeholders, and impact quality of life for society

Evolution of the Research Administrator

1940s - primarily scientists/researchers and project directors, themselves

1950s - scientists, military, federal agency business managers

1960s-mid 70s - RAs trained at state colleges and universities

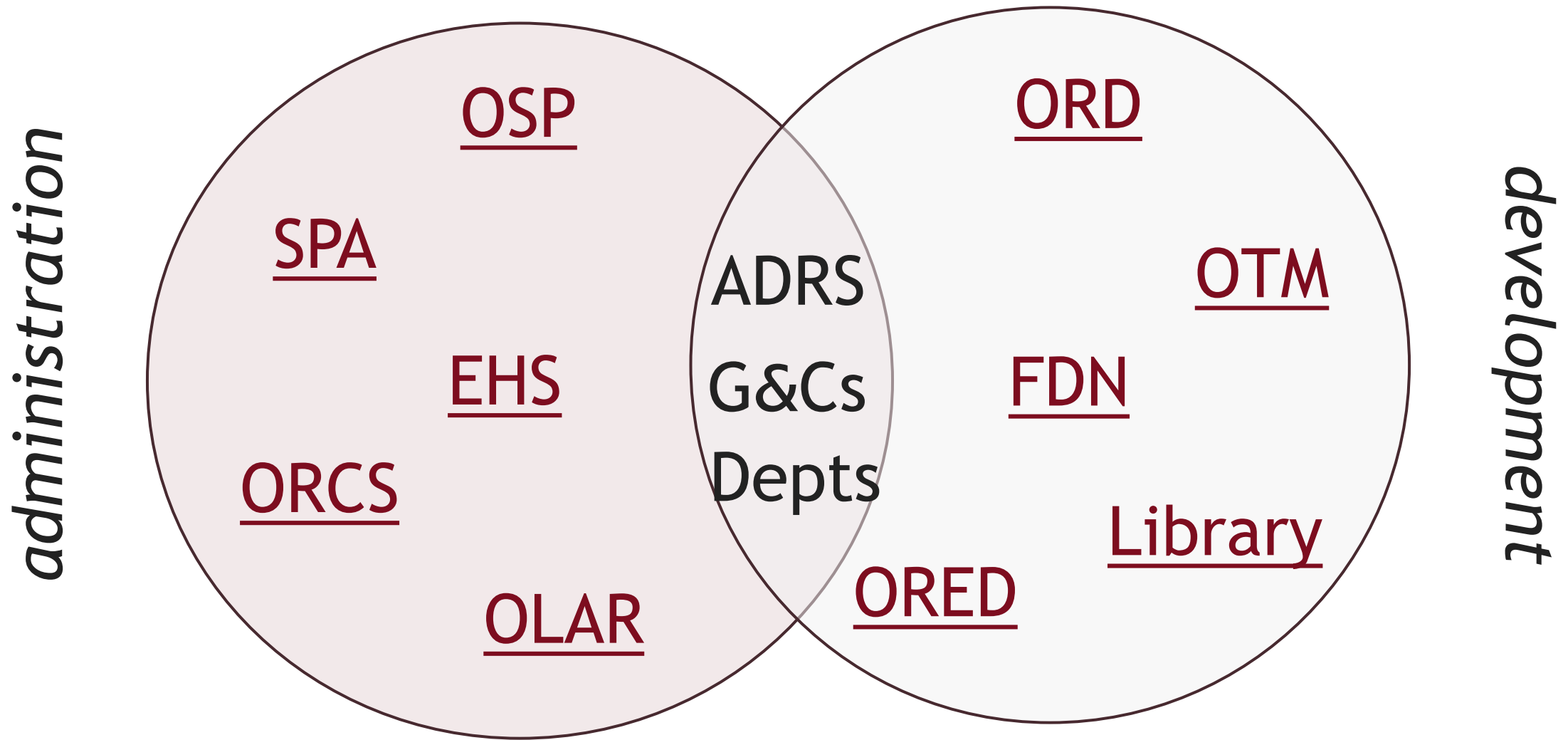
1980s - initiation of professional orgs - development of in-house trainings at institutions

2000s - Present day - expanded credentialing, specialized trainings and degree programs for RA within organizational context (healthcare, university, etc.)* *This is where we start to see a branch into development services as a separate function*

The Catalysts for Growth and Specialization toward Development Services

- Competitive funding climate and pressure to increase funding
- Intersectionality of funding opportunities plus “siloes” institutions needed “gap bridgers” and expertise across disciplines
- Increase in risk mitigation measures for misuse and/or misconduct (added policies and diverted resources for “extra” support)
- High volume and standard practices for managing proposals (technology advancements -paperless) streamlined processes thus making “extra” support too extra and necessitating standardized admin services.
- Additional supports became attractive to faculty recruitment and retention efforts

MSU Supports for External Funding



Administration v. Development

key differentiating features

Regulatory

Qualitative

Task-driven

Process-driven

Procedural

Impact-oriented

Objective

Subjective

Ensure Compliance

Add Value

Standardized

Responsive/Strategic

Required*

Project-specific

**3-day+ rule*

Supplemental*

**by request/referral*

Administration v. Development

examples of services/activities over lifecycle of a project or idea

IDENTIFYING FUNDING

- Can direct PIs to standard, funder-specific opportunities and central databases (i.e. grants.gov; ERDC)
- Uses standard tools on behalf of PIs
- Landscape analysis; knowledge of funding priorities and pipelines/ trends/ partnering opportunities
- Conduct consultations and targeted searches based on institutional knowledge
- Extrapolate opportunities from uncommon sources and match interests

Administration v. Development

examples of services/activities over lifecycle of a project or idea

POSITIONING FOR SUCCESS

- Maintain and interpret data on success rates
- Streamline processes to reduce burden
- Educate personnel and promote transparency in processes
- Build capacity of PIs with training, ID of collaborators, stakeholders and beneficiaries for targeted activities
- Competitive Intelligence
- Disseminate info on institutional priorities, strengths, and leveraged resources

Administration v. Development

examples of services/activities over lifecycle of a project or idea

PROJECT DESIGN

- ID and address legal, human subjects or other issues – IRB, IACUC
- Communicate with partners on mechanisms for support (MOUs, NDAs, etc.)
- Logistics for fiscal approvals (budget implications)
- Guided use of tools such as logic models
- Assist with establishment of performance metrics and baseline data/literature
- Solicitation Analysis; Confirm appropriateness of scope and impact
- Facilitate team building and logistics for proposal production; assess readiness

Administration v. Development

examples of services/activities over lifecycle of a project or idea

PROPOSAL PREP & SUBMISSION

- Review and approve required components for completeness, accuracy, and compliance
- Ensure compliance with dept and institutional regulations & policies
- Serve as Authorized Organizational Rep; Agree to required assurances and submission protocols
- Manage/verify PI credentials in various platforms
- Outline requirements for proposal content; provide prompts for responsiveness to merit review criteria and funder priorities
- Provide guidance, templates, advice and best practices on sections as needed
- Contribute writing as applicable
- Qualitative and editorial review, facilitate peer review
- Coordinate team roles and assignments/project management as requested

Administration v. Development

examples of services/activities over lifecycle of a project or idea

POST-SUBMISSION

- Process confirmations; reply to requests for additional info
- Accept award or acknowledge non-award
- Facilitate modifications as needed
- Promote successful projects; seek synergies
- Analyze reviews/feedback of unfunded proposals
- Develop strategy for re-sub or future opps

Skills, qualities & experience of Research Administrators

- ▶ A broad and complex “Body of Knowledge”: Fed/statutory authority, Agency-specific knowledge, MSU/higher ed regulatory policies; internal policies; solicitation-specific
- ▶ Professionals come from many fields - business and finance, data science, public policy, legal, STEM fields
- ▶ Attention to detail; deadline-driven; ability to interpret and follow instructions; ethical, resourceful, organized, thorough

Skills, qualities & experience of Development Professionals

- ▶ Organizational context and knowledge; critical thinking/analysis across a broad range of topics; organization and management skills; strong communication skills; knowledge of research methodology; situational awareness
- ▶ From RA, humanities, education, previous project experience, public policy, management and org leadership, discipline/industry-specific areas, communications, previous faculty/researchers
- ▶ Curious, analytical, vision for impact; ability for nuanced thinking and extrapolation, “service” mindset; persuasive communicator

Emerging or Growing Administration and Development Specializations

Data Analytics

Responsible Research/Ethics/IRB

Clinical Trials Mgt

Faculty achievement promotion

Student funding/fellowships
specialists

Broader Impacts/Engagement

Technology Transfer

RD for Early Career faculty

Evaluation Services

Grantwriting

Large Center/ multi-collaborative
projects

International initiatives/ Foreign
Involvement

NGOs/ Non-Profits/ Public and Private
orgs.

Proposal Prep Consulting

Agency-specific/ or “Grand Challenges”
specialization

Competitive Intelligence

Training and Resource Development

RESEARCH on RA and RD (ROI, DEI)

Skills, qualities & experience for Research Development Professionals

- ▶ Organizational context and knowledge; critical thinking/analysis across a broad range of topics; organization and management skills; strong communication skills; knowledge of research methodology; situational awareness
- ▶ From humanities, education, previous project experience, public policy, management and org leadership, discipline/industry-specific areas, communications
- ▶ Curious, analytical, vision for impact; ability for nuanced thinking and extrapolation, “service” mindset; persuasive communicator



Scope and complementary nature of RA & RD services at all levels

Potential for professional development and career opportunities

Services and support for all MSU grantseekers and awardees!

Our door is always open!



- Request a meeting or consultation
development@ord.msstate.edu
- Specific support for a project in development
- Help locating additional resources and information

More info at www.ord.msstate.edu

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