Core Facilities Administration

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What does CFA do?

• Core Facilities Administration provides financial support, administrative oversight, professional development, assessment and communication of shared research resources to advance the research mission of Northwestern University.

  – Institutional Policies and Procedures
  – Federal Regulations and Compliance
  – Annual Report Review
  – Program Review
  – Inter-Institutional Activities (OAI, Cores at Argonne, SHyNE)
  – Marketing and Communications (business consulting, support services, website, brochure)
What are Core Facilities?

- Core Facilities are centralized research laboratories with state-of-the-art (expensive) equipment
- “Recharge Centers” operating under a fee-for-service model, with the mission of enabling research at Northwestern
  - **Department Core Facilities** serve researchers in a single department, earning revenue less than $30K/year
  - **University Core Facilities** serve researchers in multiple departments, earning revenue greater than $30K/year
  - **Clinical Core Facilities** serve the research needs of researchers/clinicians engaged in clinical research studies
- **Cores provide centralized services to researchers:**
  - Genomics/Proteomics/Animal Model services
  - Synthesis and characterization of biomolecules (small molecules, peptides, proteins)
How are Core Facilities Supported?

- **Central Oversight of University Core Facilities**
  - Administrative and Financial Services (NUcore)
  - Rigorous Evaluation of Annual Reports (Awards)
  - Policies and Regulations (Federal, University)
  - Professional Development Opportunities

- **Annual Financial Support**
  - OR (approx. $2M/yr)
  - Centers, Schools, Departments (approx. $2M/yr)

- **Construction and Improvements of Space for Core Facilities**
How are Core Facilities Supported? (cont’d)

- **Office for Research Equipment Grants**: two competitive rounds per year, support equipment purchases up to $100K, ReLODE loan program up to $500K (10 yr. to pay back)
- **Office for Research Operating Support**: requested via the Annual Report, supports expenses not allowable on recharge, facility growth, unexpected expenses
- **FSM Dean’s Office Support**: competitive, single round per year, provides subsidies for cores serving FSM researchers
- **Voucher Program**: when a PI donates *new* equipment to a core facility, they are eligible for a voucher to use the equipment
Additional Support of Core Facilities

• Schools and Departments provide operating subsidies or annual deficit coverage to core facilities
• Core-specific grants reduce the operating costs (NIH RHLCCC grant and other P30’s, NSF MRSEC grant)
• External users charged a higher rates - especially commercial users that can help a core facility balance its budget (some transactions may be taxable!)
How can I learn more about Core Facilities?

• Visit our website: [http://facilities.research.northwestern.edu/](http://facilities.research.northwestern.edu/)

• Internal Opportunities
  – Core Facility Listserv Quarterly Brown Bags
  – Kellogg Course: Leadership and Management in Core Facilities
  – Quarterly NUCore Tech Talks

• External Opportunities
  – National: ABRF (Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities)
  – Regional: MWACD (Midwest chapter of ABRF)
Contact us with questions!

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