CCC Leadership in Science Policy Institute

Fred B. Schneider

Samuel B. Eckert Professor of Computer Science Cornell University Ithaca, New York 14853 U.S.A.

fbs@cs.cornell.edu

Goals

LISPI is a crash course in:

- Relevant science policy issues
- Mechanics of policy making
 - How is federal science policy crafted?
 - How is it implemented?
 - How can you be effective?
- Opportunities to participate in policy-making process.

Nb: Federal funds **cannot** be used to <u>lobby</u> at the federal, state, or local levels. LISPI is funded by federal funds. Any "advocacy" you see at LISPI is purely for purposes of illustration.

Difference between "education" and "lobbying"?

CRA and CCC Interfaces to DC



Who Else Talks to DC?

- Individuals
- Professional societies
 - NAE, ACM, IEEE,
- Business (including "Higher Education")
- Consortia ("lobbyists")

Why Get Involved?

Altruism

- "Ask not what your country can do for you ask what you can do for your country"
- Obligation
 - In US, higher-ed is a public trust.
- Pragmatism
 - Change the environment so you can better do "your thing" (e.g., research, teaching, ...).

Ways to Connect

Advise Research Funding Agencies

- Influence direction (e.g. new initiatives)
- Influence operation
- Advise Other Federal Agencies
 - Influence what/how they operate through:
 - Federal Advisory Cmte Act (=FACA) advisory committees
 - National Research Council (=NRC) boards and studies
- Advise Congress
 - Advice on legislation

Being Effective in DC

A rather different culture and tactics from a university setting...

- Don't seek to get credit. (You probably won't.)
- Compromise is typically how you win.
 - Understand what others are seeking and why.
- Organizations / Individuals optimize for:
 - More budget ("Follow the money.")
 - More power (or less accountability / co-dependence)
 - More access
- Re-election requires votes.
 - "All politics are local."

Being Effective in DC

Acknowledgement: Thomas Kalil. Policy Entrepreneurship at the White House Getting Things Done in Large Organizations. *Innovations* Vol 11 No 3 / 4.

- Show up (and be willing to do so whenever)
- Listen. Be prepared to summarize your opponents view as well as your opponent.
- Be succinct. Figure out the "end". Give the "ask". Then give a rationale that will compel this listener.
- Make it easy to give you help.
- Identify allies and recruit them.

A Cynic's view of DC Strategy

Winning characteristics for initiatives:

- Different trumps more
- New trumps improved
- Reactive trumps proactive
- Inclusive trumps exclusive
 - 50 states, a budget crisis (=competing interests), ...

Schedule: Day 1

0830-0900: Overview 0900-1000: The Federal Case for Computing 1015-1130: The Federal Budget Process 1130-1200: Providing Testimony 1230-1330: Lunch 1330-1500: Advisory Committees and How to Serve on One 1530-1630: Having "The Conversation" (I) ____ 1645-1745: Expert Panel – Communicating Importance of the Field 1745- ··· : Reception

Schedule: Day 2

0800-0930: Interacting with Agencies/Creating New Initiatives0930-1100: Embedding Researchers into Non-Research Agencies and the White House

1115-1300: Having "The Conversation" (II)1300: Wrap-up