CCC Leadership in Science Policy Institute

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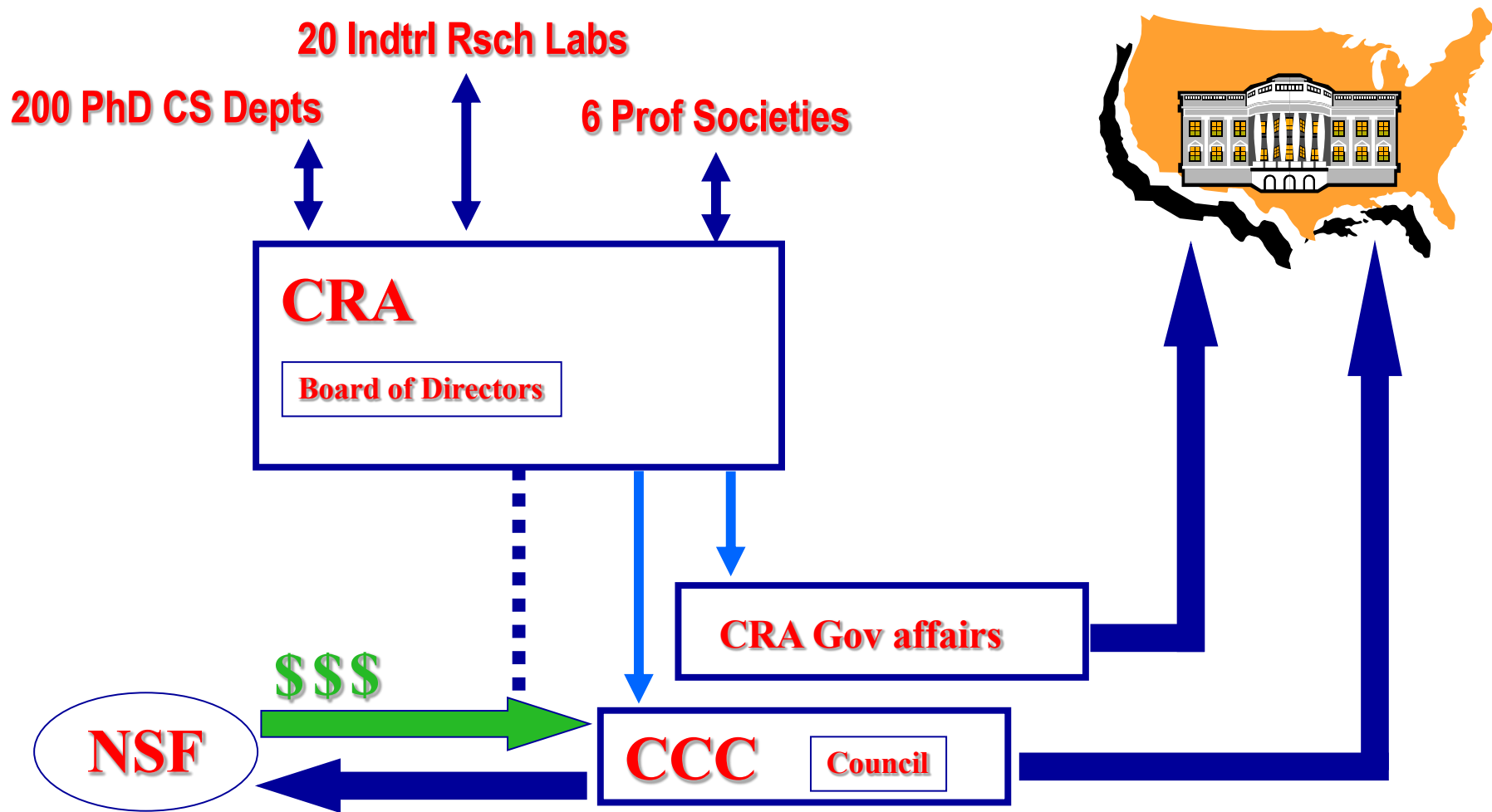
Goals

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 <u>you</u> 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

200 PhD CS Depts

20 Indtrl Rsch Labs

6 Prof Societies

CRA

Board of Directors

CRA Gov affairs

$$$

NSF

CCC Council

Who Else Talks to DC?

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

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

- 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
1130-1300: Advisory Committees and How to Serve on One
1300-1400: Lunch
1400-1500: Providing Testimony

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 Initiatives

0930-1100: Embedding Researchers into Non-Research Agencies and the White House

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

1300:   Wrap-up

Part II: Congressional Testimony

Congressional Testimony

- Committee on Science and Technology, Research and Science Education Subcommittee, hearing June 10, 2009 on Cybersecurity R&D. (Schneider)

- Committee on Science and Technology, Technology and Innovation Subcommittee, hearing October 22, 2009 on Cybersecurity Activities at NIST's Information Technology Laboratory. (Schneider)

- Armed Services Committee, Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and CapabilitiesSubcommitee, hearing Februrary 25, 2010 on Private Sector Perspectives on Department of Defense Information Technology and Cybersecurity Activities. (Schneider)

- Committee on Science and Technology, Research and Technology Subcommittee, hearing on Oct 28, 2015 on A review of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program. (Hager)

A Congressional Hearing

Mechanics of being a witness...

- Discussion with Cmte Staff
  - Invitation only after they have heard your views
  - You pay for travel etc.
- Submit written statement
  - CRA and other orgs can help you with polishing and details
- Deliver 5 min oral statement
  - Likely different from your written statement
- Q+A with Cmte (5 min / member)
- Respond to post-hearing written questions.

The Big Day: Presentation

- Read bio and testimony of other panelists
- Practice (reading) your 5 min speech. And again. And again. And again. … With a stop watch.
- 5 minutes is a hard deadline.

The Big Day: Logistics

- Read the *Washington Post* that morning
- Dress appropriately
- Visit the rest room.
- Members will come and go. Ignore it.

The Big Day: The Question Period

Question period: 5 minutes per member

- Short answers help to cover more ground
  - Good responders ulitmately get more air time.
  - Don't interrupt. But happily embrace interruptions.
- You can't explain the nuances, so don't try.
- You are not obligated to answer. Or you can promise data / details in a written follow-up
- Questions are often written by staff.   Make the best of the question. ("The premise makes no sense…" is the wrong answer.)
- This is not a debate. Do not direct comments to other witneseses and do not respond to the points they have made.