Building a Responsible Research Security Program at a Large University in the US

University of Tennessee Research Security Program Structure

Introduction

Emerging Challenges

- Principled collaboration is critical to success of the research enterprise
- Research security is a critical matter, important for the research community, government agencies, & international partners
- Program designed to enable the University to implement mission-focused, integrated, risk-balanced program through application of research security principles & best practices

Program Goals

Research Security Action

- Protect research security & reinforce adherence to research responsibilities, transparency, & equity
- Preserve open and collaborative nature of the US research enterprise
- Through federal guidance, an RSP should contain at least four elements:
  1. Cyber Security
  2. Foreign Travel Security
  3. Research Security Training
  4. Export Control Training

UTK Faculty RCR Ambassadors from:

- Haslam College of Business
- College of Education, Health, & Human Sciences
- Institute of Agriculture
- College of Communication & Information
- Tickle College of Engineering
- College of Arts & Sciences

Offices, Duties, & Descriptions

- <u>DRIA</u>: Division of Research Integrity & Assurance - Coordinates the Research Security Program activities
- <u>ORIED Divisions</u>: Other units within the Office of Research, Innovation, & Economic Development
- <u>COI</u>: Conflicts of Interest - Includes disclosure & management
- <u>EHS</u>: Environmental Health & Safety – Includes Lab radiation, biosafety, controlled substances, and institutional animal care & use committee
- <u>Research Security</u>: Includes IP & the UT Research Foundation
- <u>Foreign Travel Security</u>: Includes UT Center for Global Engagement
- <u>Cybersecurity</u>: Includes cyber, information, and data security

Results

Equip Researchers

- Develop an RSP structure
- Strategize and customize RCR workshops
- Develop a researcher toolkit or central location to contact university experts
- Standardize program requirements across the University

Discussion

Foster Best Practices

Key Concepts to Consider

- How to motivate researchers for training
- Measurement and assessment issues & effectiveness
- Resource concerns
- Reaching non-traditional participants, postdocs/fellows, students, & staff

Conclusions & Timeline

Research and Planning
- Recruit RCR Ambassadors
- Identify needs and gaps

2023

Initial Development
- Develop and implement RSP structure
- Implement basic training programs
- Acquire feedback and assessment

2024

Robust Program Implementation
- Through feedback, develop & re-deploy customized programs suited for large, land-grant, R1 universities

2025

Evolving Development
- Continued compliance
- New ambassadors
- Customize for future challenges

Beyond

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