Expanding the Circle

Building a Campus-Wide Research Administration Network

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Section F201- Expanding the Circle: Building a Campus-Wide Research Administration Network

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Session Objectives

- Understanding the crisis – Discuss the factors contributing to campus silos within Research Administration

- Building a Network – Explore strategies to turn current challenges into a unified campus-wide network for Research Administrators

- Benefits of breaking down the silos

- Long term effects and strategi planning building

Understanding the Crisis

Texas State
University's
Story

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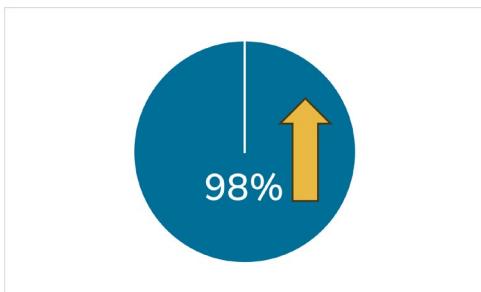INTERNATIONAL

Navigating Challenges in Research Administration

Share your thoughts on turnover,
collaboration, and silos.

Building the Network

Research Administrators Network

98%

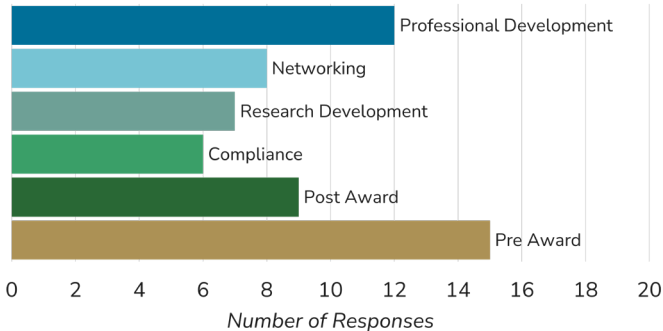|	
External Members	2%
Departments	37%
College Level	13%
University Centers	31%
University Level (UA, UBA)	3%
Division of Research	14%

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%

RAN membership nearly doubled in one year, increasing by **98% from 60 members to 119 in FY25.** This increase reflects strong engagement and growth within the research administration community.
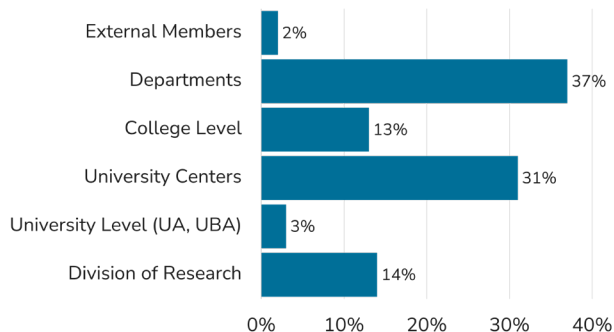
Membership in the RAN spans multiple organizational levels, with the highest representation from **departments (37%)** and **university centers (31%)**. Other members come from the **Division of Research (14%)**, **college-level units (13%)**, **university-level offices (3%)** and **external Institutions (2%)**, reflecting a broad and collaborative community.

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Topics of Interest

	Number of Responses
Professional Development	12
Networking	8
Research Development	7
Compliance	6
Post Award	9
Pre Award	15

Number of Responses

The highest interest areas among research administrators for future networking and training events are Pre-Award and Professional Development, followed by Post Award, Networking, and Research Development, and Compliance.

Key terms from qualitative feedback, including support, learning, networking, and research community, highlight member perceptions of RAN benefits.

Building the Network

Share your thoughts on needs and
opportunities to build your campus
network

Benefits of breaking down the silos

- Enhanced Collaboration Across Units
- Better Research Administrator and Faculty Experience
- Improve Resource Utilization
- Faster and More Strategic Decision-Making
- Greater Innovation and Problem-Solving
- Stronger Institutional Culture and Mission Alignment
- More Effective Policy and Compliance Implementation
- Improved Adaptability and Crisis Response

Continued Benefits

Enhanced Collaboration Across Units

Facilitates join efforts between the research administrative office and department/college unit

Leads to more integrated and aligned institutional goals

Better Research Administrative Assistant and Faculty Experience

Reduces confusion caused by fragmented services or inconsistent communication

Enables a more seamless, "one-stop" experience for users navigating the institutional process and procedures

Continued Benefits

Improved Resource Utilization

Encourages shared use of:
- Personnel resources
- Data knowledge
- Funding opportunities, funding exceptions, etc.
- Technology improvement opportunities

Faster and More Strategic Decision-Making

Promotes information sharing that supports broader understanding and quicker action

Ensures decision are made with input from diverse perspectives and functions

Continued Benefits

Greater Innovation and Problem-Solving

Cross-disciplinary collaboration leads to creative solutions to complex challenges

Encourages experimentation and new thinking that transcends college/department boundaries

Stronger Institutional Culture and Mission Alignment

Builds a sense of shared identity and purpose

Reduces "Us vs. Them" mentalists that can erode morale and trust

Improved Adaptability and Crisis Response

A unified institution responds more effectively to emergencies or rapid change

Reduces bureaucratic barriers the slow down urgent coordination

Summary of Benefits

In summary, breaking down institutional silos enables complex organizations to function more like a cohesive system rather than isolated parts, enhancing both performance and culture.

Long-Term Effects and Strategic Planning Building

Planning becomes **more participatory**, with boarder stakeholder involvement

Strategies emphasizes **interconnected goals** rather than isolated initiatives

Institutions are better positioned to **track progress**, evaluates outcomes, and adjust plans using integrated feedback loops

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