

Science and Technology Policy and Law
Center for Advancing Science and Technology

Planning Meeting
Examining State and Institutional Research Requirements: Pathways to Increasing Efficiency

July 16-17, 2026

National Academy of Sciences Building
Room 120
2101 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20418

Overview and Objectives

A thriving scientific ecosystem requires a balance of innovation and oversight to allow new and novel ideas to emerge while ensuring ethical, transparent, and accountable work. The current regulatory regime in the US, however, has at times been fragmented, inconsistent, and bloated in ways that can hinder scientific advancement. Decades of work and scholarship have pointed to potential changes to improve the regulatory environment at the federal level, including a recent report in 2025 from the National Academies—*Simplifying Research Regulations: Optimizing American Science*.

While efforts at the federal level are of great importance, federal regulations are not the only place where attention is needed. State-level requirements sometimes duplicate or complicate federal regulatory requirements and academic institutions may develop their own policies and procedures to manage compliance and risk in ways that can limit the potential for innovation and advancement.

This two-day planning meeting aims to examine state and institutional requirements to identify the areas most fruitful for further effort to improve the overall regulatory and oversight environment for scientific research.

Day 1

12:30pm

Lunch available in the meeting room.

1:00pm – 1:30pm

Welcome, Introduction, and Framing

Facilitator: Alan Leshner, CEO Emeritus, AAAS

- ❖ Welcome and objectives for the meeting
- ❖ Round robin introductions
- ❖ Foundation setting: review of 2025 report

State Regulations

1:30pm – 2:15pm

Understanding the State Regulatory Environment

Moderator: Julianne McCall, Chief Executive Officer, California Council on Science and Technology

Panelists: Jennifer Gerz-Escandon, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Research, The University of North Carolina System; Roger Hanshaw, Speaker, West Virginia Legislature; Andrew Zwicker, Senator, New Jersey State Senate

- ❖ Discuss how states view the notion of risk, their tolerance for it, and mechanisms for assessing it
- ❖ Discuss the current variation in approaches to state scientific regulatory policy and the pros and cons of different approaches
- ❖ Discuss how state policymaking is informed by federal and institutional policies to avoid duplication
- ❖ Discuss the ways in which current efforts help or hinder efficiency and innovation

2:15pm – 2:30pm

BREAK

2:30pm- 3:15pm

Inter-State Coordination

Facilitator: Julius Maina, Independent Consultant, Maina Ventures

- ❖ Discuss existing models of state coordination and collaboration to develop science focused policy
- ❖ Discuss factors that hinder and facilitate coordination and collaboration across states on science focused policy
- ❖ Explore ways to build and develop fruitful collaborations and learning/sharing across state lines to increase efficiency

BREAK

3:15pm – 3:30pm

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Building a Playbook for State Research Regulations & Policies

Facilitator: Michele Masucci, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, University System of Maryland

- ❖ Discuss the challenges states face in developing and overseeing compliance with their scientific and research focused statutes and regulations
- ❖ Discuss what states need to know in order to effectively contend with existing and changing federal regulations, if at all
- ❖ Discuss the skill sets needed to create change and develop the most effective state-level statutes and policies

4:30pm

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Day 2

9:00am

Breakfast available in the meeting room.

Institutional Regulations

9:30am – 10:15am

Understanding the Institutional Compliance Environment

Moderator: Linda Coleman, Associate Vice Provost for Research Policy and Integrity, Stanford University

Panelists: Kristin West, Research Ethics and Compliance, COGR; Robert Nobles, Vice President, Health Sciences Enterprise and Research Innovation, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; P. Srirama Rao, Vice President, Research and Innovation, Virginia Commonwealth University; Prasant Mohapatra, Provost and Executive Vice President, University of South Florida

- ❖ Discuss the current variation in approaches to institutional scientific regulatory policy and the pros and cons of different approaches
- ❖ Discuss how institutional policymaking is informed by state and federal policies to avoid duplication
- ❖ Discuss the ways in which current efforts help or hinder efficiency and innovation

10:15am – 11:00am

Institutional Risk Management and Scientific Innovation

Facilitator: Christopher Viggiani, Associate Vice President, Research Integrity, Oregon State University

- ❖ Discuss different ways that institutions approach risk management and the pros and cons of these approaches
- ❖ Discuss challenges of balancing risk and innovation
- ❖ Explore solutions that help institutions manage risk while also ensuring smooth progression of scientific innovation

11:00am-11:15am

BREAK

11:15am-12:15pm

Building a Playbook for Institutional Research Compliance

Facilitator: Stacy Pritt, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Research Compliance Officer, The Texas A&M University System

- ❖ Discuss the challenges institutions face in developing, interpreting, applying, and overseeing the implementation of federal and state-level scientific regulatory requirements
- ❖ Discuss what institutions need to know in order to engage effectively with existing and changing federal regulations
- ❖ Discuss how and why universities should adopt a more business minded approach in their decision making and operations and how this can be done without compromising regulatory compliance, ethics, and their academic, research, and public missions
- ❖ Discuss the skill sets needed to create change and develop the most effective institution-level policies

12:15pm - 1:15pm

LUNCH

Looking Ahead

1:15pm-2:30pm

Next Steps: Where do we go from here? What are the critical questions and opportunities to move forward?

Facilitator: Kelvin Droegemeier, Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Science and Policy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- ❖ Discuss ways in which states and institutions can be made comfortable with a multi-layered, risk-based framework that does add additional requirements beyond their existing obligations
- ❖ Examine ways that states and institutions can work collaboratively to coordinate oversight and regulations
- ❖ Discuss what attendees see as the lowest hanging fruit as well as the most impactful efforts that might be undertaken to increase efficiency in state and institutional science regulatory policies
- ❖ Consider what output would help to address these key challenges and what role the Academies might play
- ❖ Consider who are the key individuals/organizations to engage

2:30pm

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