Strength in Numbers: Using group peer-review for grant review

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Background

- Expertise of multiple reviewers is often sought for manuscript, grant, and other scholarly submissions
- The peer-review process, a traditionally independently-driven activity, has recently been flipped with the advent of Group Peer-Review (GPR).
- GPR relies on the complementary expertise of a small team, requires the active exchange of ideas, and necessitates ongoing collaboration.
- A team of health professions educators recently deployed the GPR process for the review of a national grant submission.

Methods

- A study team member (DM) was asked to review a group of proposals for a national grant.
- We recruited a group of several experts to provide a score and comments for each grant proposal.
- Individual scores were averaged and comments from each reviewer were distributed amongst the group.
- The group convened to summarize, discuss, dissect, and share thoughts on each proposal.
- The group reached a scoring consensus.

Results

- Review team feedback illustrated the value of participating in a group peer-review exercise.
- Contributions from all members of the group resulted in an aggregate score for each proposal as well as robust feedback.
- The process served as a meaningful faculty development exercise for all reviewers who ranged in levels of experience with the peer-review process.

Group Peer-Review Process for Grants

Recruit a Review Team

Develop a Grant–Specific Rubric

GPR Process
- Independent Reviews
- Collate Review Scores and Comments
- Convene as Group to discuss – come to scoring consensus

Finalize and Submit

Submit

Discussion

- Peer-review is commonly an independently-driven activity.
- GPR relies on the complementary expertise of a small team, the active exchange of ideas, and ongoing collaboration.
- Instead of performing independent reviews for a national grant review process, a group of several experts reviewed and then convened to discuss and reach a scoring consensus for recommendation for each proposal.
- The GPR process brings together individuals with different levels of experience and unique but complementary areas of expertise.
- The review process results in a more holistic faculty development opportunity with the end result of a more thorough, quality review.

References

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