

Assessment of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Faculty's Research Needs to Identify Future Faculty Development Programming

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Objective

- To assess the faculty within the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPAHP) to better understand the educational needs, barriers, and challenges of engaging in research in the school.

Rationale

- Securing external funding has become increasingly difficult.
- SPAHP grant submissions have increased over the past few years but there hasn't been a large increase in awards.

Previously identified research challenges include:

- An increase in non-tenure faculty that are interested in applying for grants but have no grant writing experience.
- Majority of grant applications are submitted last minute without an extensive review. A 2017 study from Columbia University's School of Nursing found applications that went through internal review were twice as likely to get funded.

Methods

- An electronic BlueQ survey was developed by SPAHP's Office of Faculty and Staff Development and Office of Research.
- Survey was distributed to all faculty in the departments of occupational therapy, pharmacy practice, pharmacy sciences, and physical therapy in summer of 2018.
- The survey collected demographics, including rank, faculty membership category, and track. Areas of research practice, current research involvement, barriers that prohibit research engagement, and the importance of research were assessed.
- Faculty were asked to identify faculty development sessions that may be helpful in furthering their research endeavors.

Results

- The survey had a 58% response rate (N = 65) including 19 faculty from occupational therapy, 37 from the pharmacy program, and 9 from physical therapy.
- 62% of respondents were associate or full professors
- 88% of faculty indicated engaging in unfunded research, with 74% of faculty applied for grants in the last five years and 77% of faculty being interested in applying for a grant in the future.

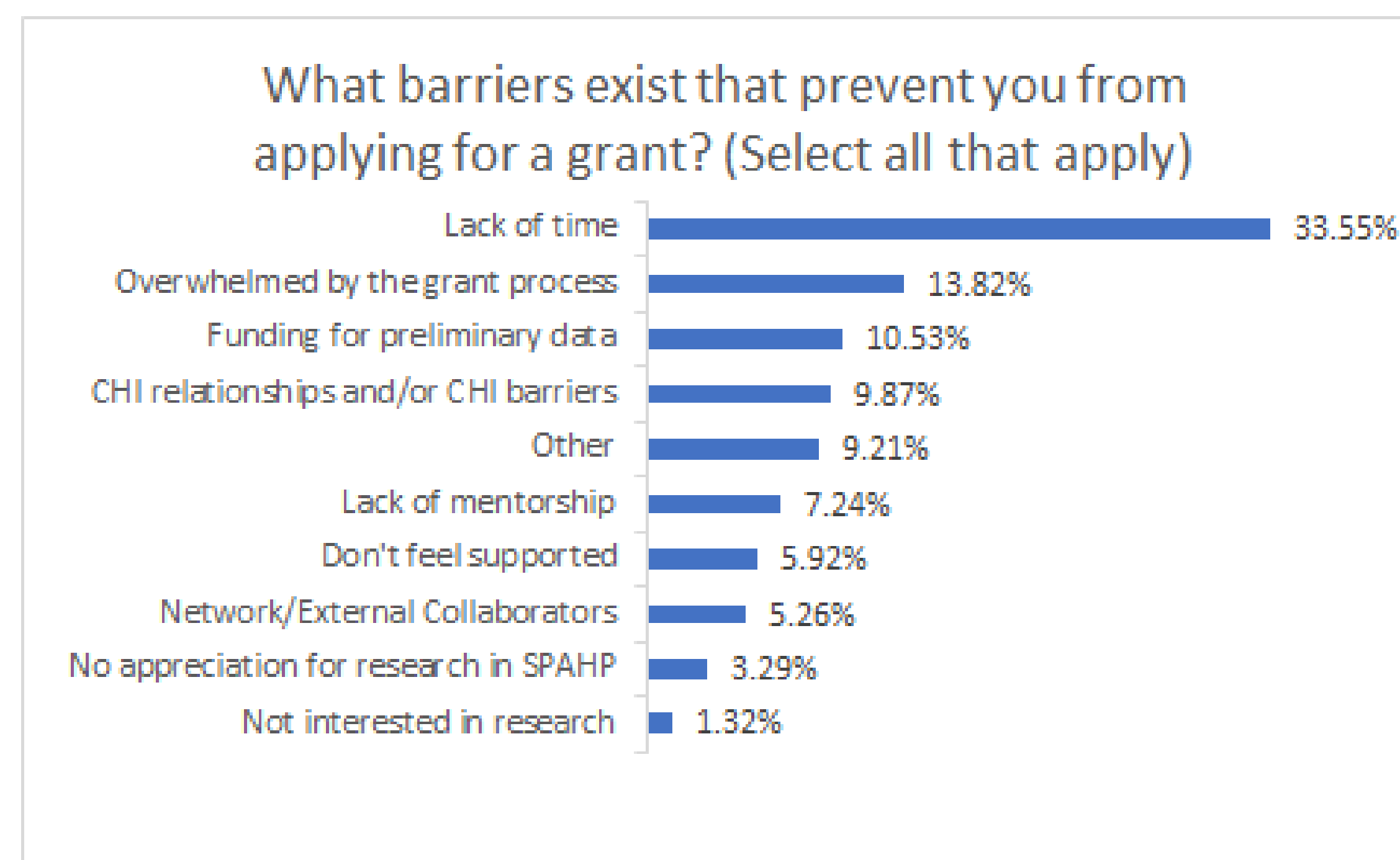


Figure 1: Barriers Preventing Grant Applications

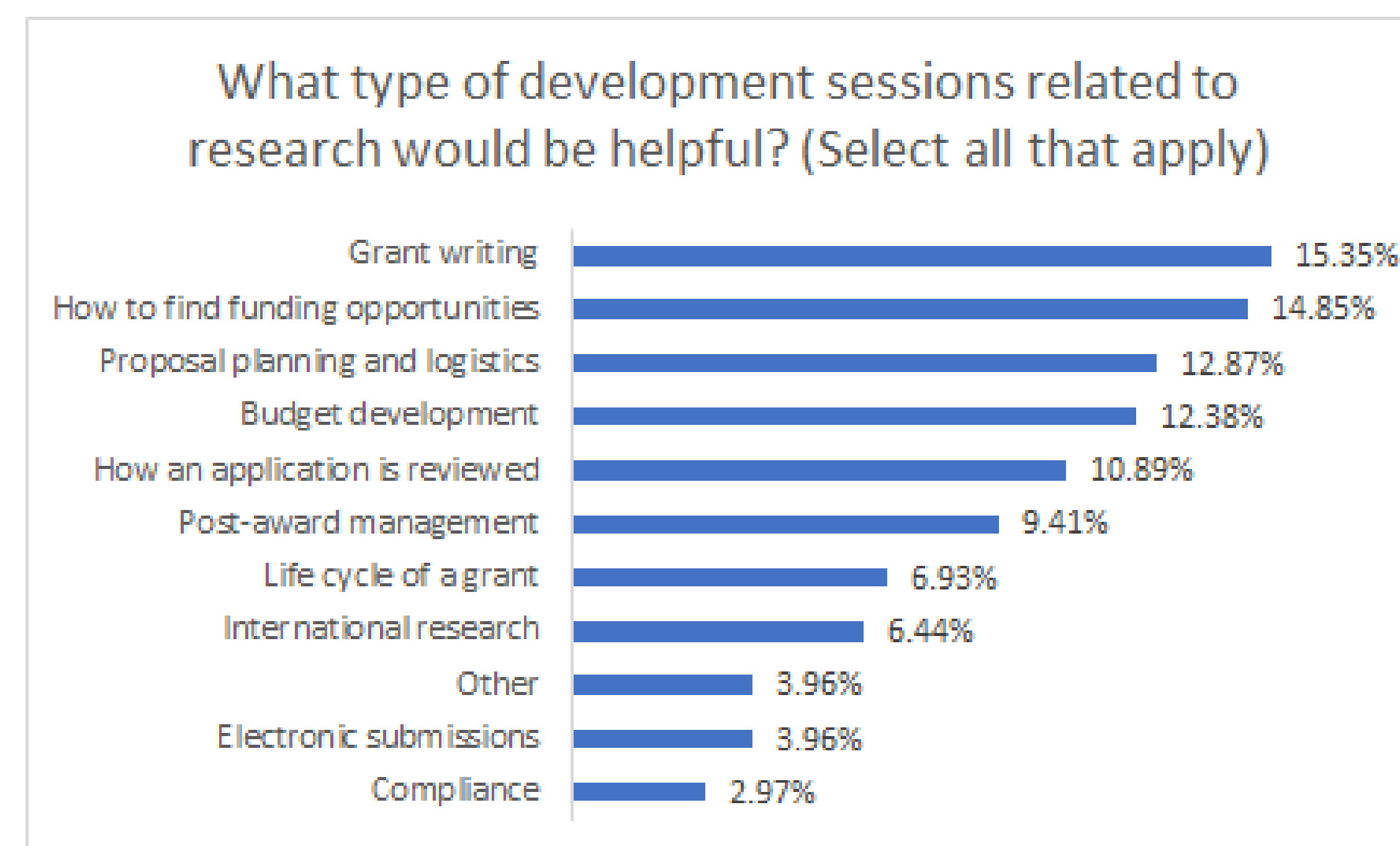


Figure 2: Development Sessions

Future direction

Israel et al. (2006) discussed the challenges of sustaining partners and the impact resources (or lack of) have on research opportunities. The results obtained will be used in 4 ways:

1. Provide important information for upcoming grant sessions
2. Identify areas for prioritized quality improvement
3. Improve communication regarding research resources
4. Create and put into place policies and procedures for the grant approval process

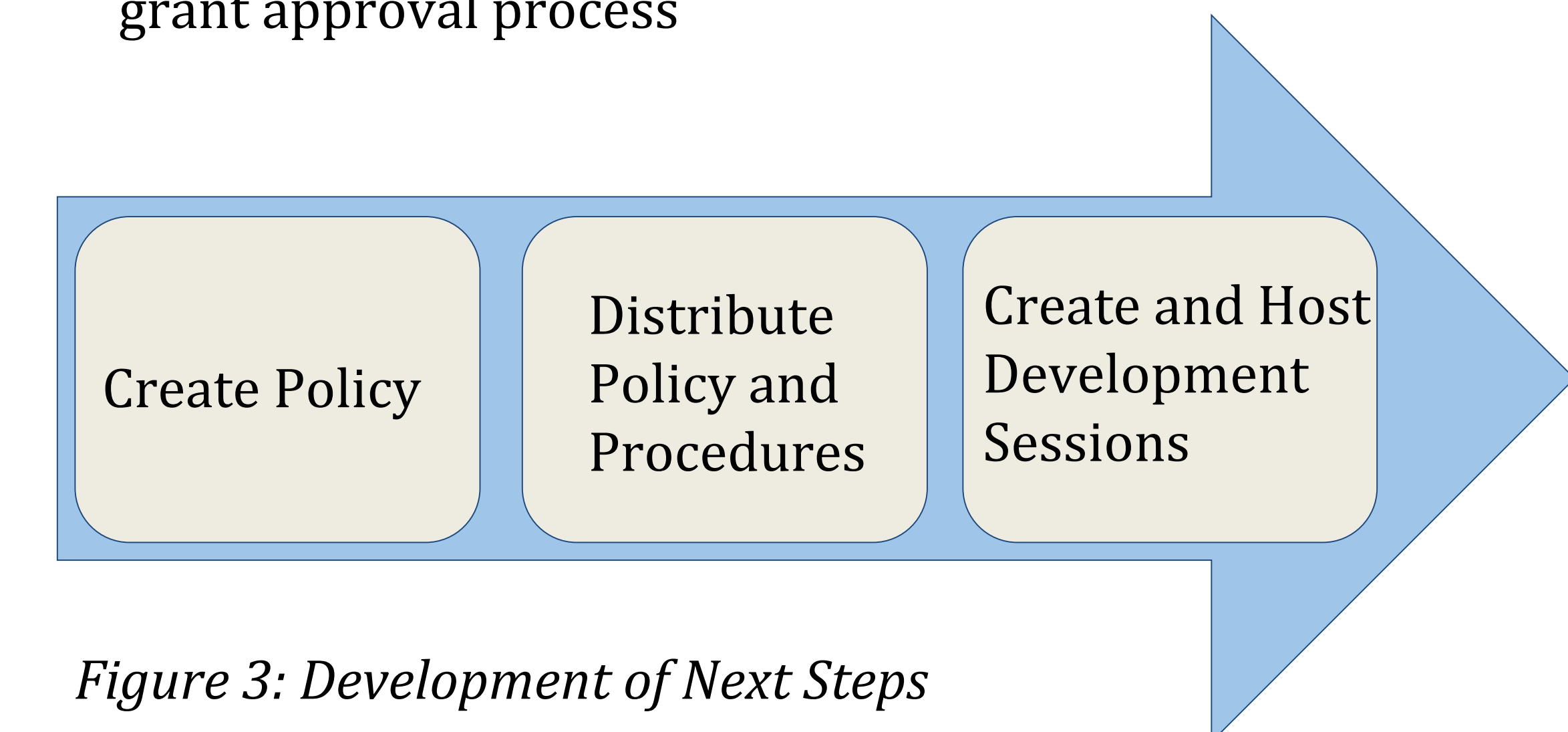


Figure 3: Development of Next Steps

Conclusions

- Numerous barriers were identified that prevent our faculty from pursuing research and applying for funding.
- There is a need for more faculty development sessions or series on grant writing, how to find funding opportunities, and the grant process within SPAHP.
- Additional programming may help increase the research opportunities and productivity in the school.

References

- Flaherty, C. (2017). Study of Internal Grant Proposal Review Processes Demonstrates Major Return on Investment. *Inside Higher Education*. Retrieved January 20, 2018, from <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/11/27/study-internal-grant-proposal-review-processes-demonstrates-major-return-investment>.
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