



# RAMP TOWN HALL

April 14, 2022

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# AGENDA

**Research at Mason**

**Huron Research Suite**

**Research Administration Management Portal (RAMP)**

**Communications, Outreach and Training**

**Research Administration Project**

**Research Reporting Project**

**Questions**



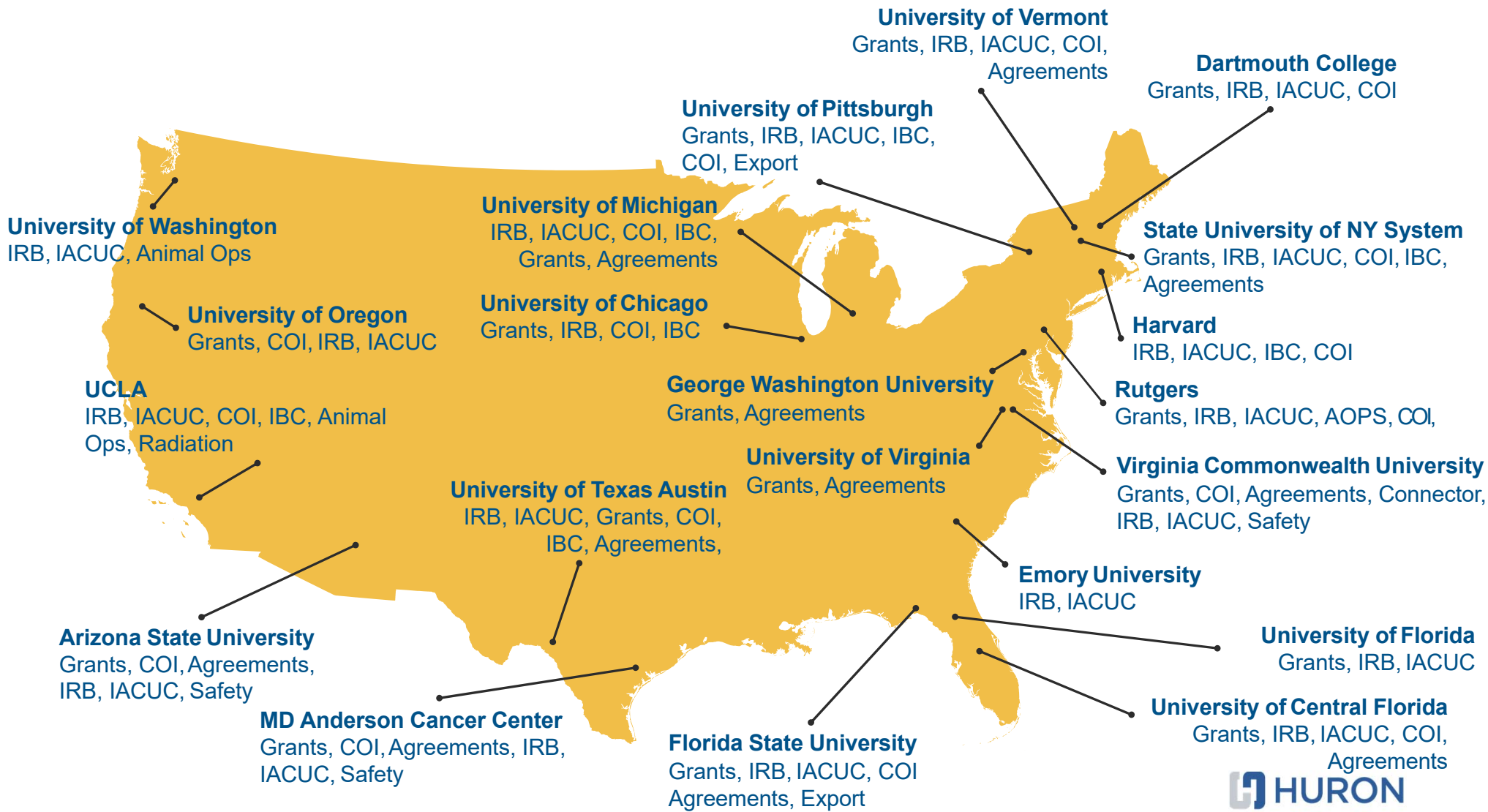
**DR. ANDRE MARSHALL**

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH,  
INNOVATION, AND ECONOMIC IMPACT**

# Research at Mason

- Mason became R1 in 2016
- Mason research expenditures have doubled over last 5 years
- Administrative burden on faculty is a concern nationally
  - Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) [2018 Faculty Workload Survey](#) of over 11,000 PIs nationally found that **44% of faculty federal research time is spent on administrative tasks (not active research)**
  - Lack of systems, inefficient processes, and insufficient local support increases faculty burden
- Increasing regulations and audit scrutiny from Sponsors and the State
- Mason's research infrastructure has not kept up with the growth, but current projects will move us closer to R1 levels







# Research Administration Management Portal (RAMP)

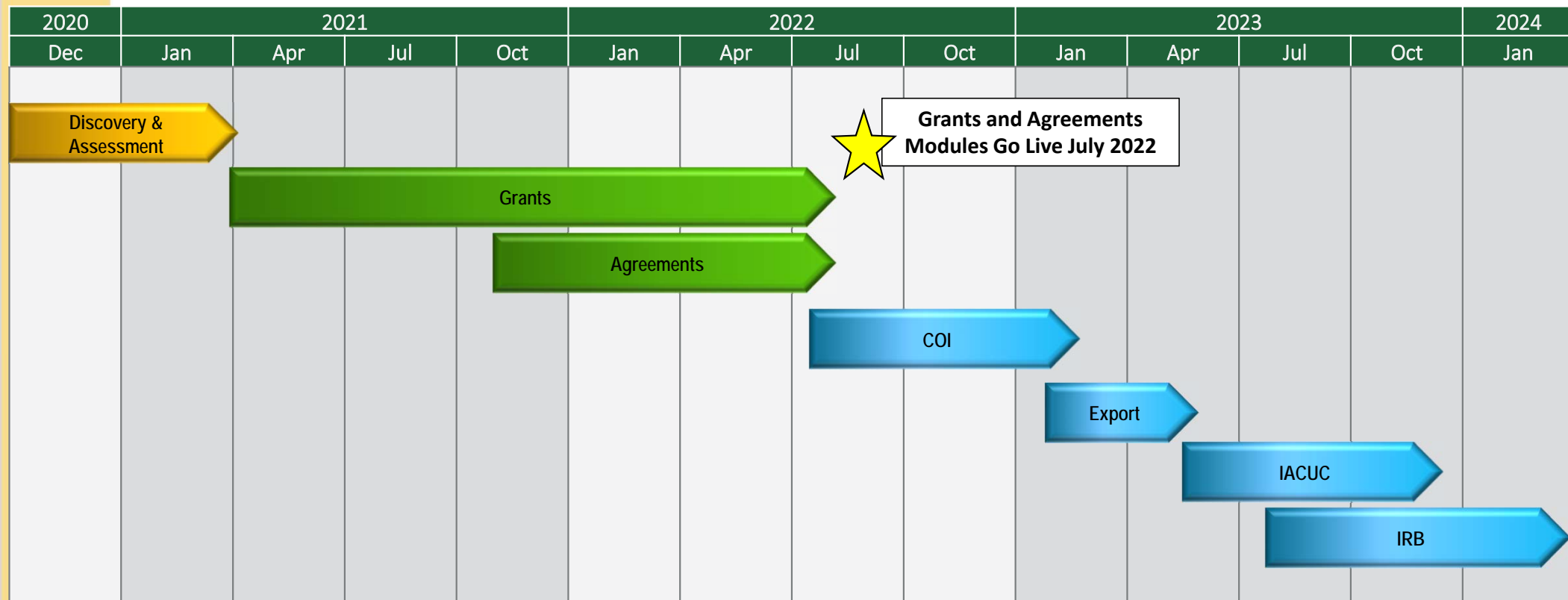
## Why RAMP

- Current systems are outdated, not integrated, at their capacity, and are not sustainable
- RAMP (Huron Research Suite) is used by more top research universities than any other research administration technology and is implemented at more than 50% of R1s

## Benefits of RAMP

- Easier access and **better user experience for faculty**
  - Workflow transparency to track status of a record, who has it, and next steps
  - Dynamic SmartForms only request required data
  - System validations reduces rework
- Integrated modules allow for **more efficient** and **automated processing**
- Improved data capture results in more robust reporting capabilities
- **Reduced risk** for the University

# RAMP Project Timeline





# RAMP Governance

<b>Executive Sponsors</b>	<b>Kevin Borek</b> (VP of Information Technology and CIO) <b>Aurali Dade</b> (AVP ORIE) <b>Deb Dickenson</b> (VP, Finance) <b>Rose Higgins</b> (Associate Dean for Research, CHHS)	<b>Mike Laskofski</b> (AVP, Research Services) <b>Andre Marshall</b> (VP for ORIEI) <b>Charlie Spann</b> (Deputy CIO & Assistant VP, ESD, ITS)
<b>Project Leadership Team</b>	<b>Margaret Ewell</b> (Dir Pre Award, OSP) <b>Amanda Fucci-Bartoszek</b> (Dir Research Reporting, Systems, and Training, OSP) <b>Rebecca Hartley</b> (AVP, ORIA) <b>Kim Jervey</b> (AD Contracts, OSP)	<b>Mike Laskofski</b> (AVP, Research Services) <b>Maribeth Luftglass</b> (Project Manager, ITS) <b>Ahmad Taheri</b> (Director, EASD, ITS) <b>Joe Taylor</b> (Managing Director, Huron) <b>David Tubis</b> (Sr. Director, Huron)
<b>Core Grants &amp; Agreements Implementation Team</b>	<b>Kevin Brooks</b> (Sr RA, OSP) <b>Joanne Carter</b> (Sr RA, OSP) <b>Janice Cohen</b> (Dir Fin and Research, CHSS) <b>Margaret Ewell</b> (Dir Pre Award, OSP) <b>Jennifer Fortney</b> (Research System and Business Analyst, OSP) <b>Amanda Fucci-Bartoszek</b> (Dir Research Reporting, Systems, and Training, OSP) <b>Jessica Guzzo</b> (Dir RA, CEHD)	<b>Kim Jervey</b> (AD Contracts, OSP) <b>Mike Laskofski</b> (AVP Research Services) <b>Maribeth Luftglass</b> (Project Manager, ITS) <b>Kimberly Maze</b> (Reporting and Sys Admin, OSP) <b>Angie Railey</b> (Dir Post Award, OSP) <b>Andrew Sprecher</b> (RA Manager, OSP) <b>Amir Tofighi</b> (SA EASD, ITS) <b>David Tubis</b> (Sr Director, Huron)
<b>RAMP Training Team</b>	<b>Janice Cohen</b> (CHSS) <b>Luiza Daddario</b> (Huron) <b>Maggie Ewell</b> (OSP) <b>Jennifer Fortney</b> (OSP)	<b>Amanda Fucci-Bartoszek</b> (OSP) <b>Jessica Guzzo</b> (CEHD) <b>Maribeth Luftglass</b> (ITS) <b>Kimberly Maze</b> (OSP)

# RAMP Academic Unit Stakeholders

<p><b>Academic Representatives</b></p>	<p> <b>Lisa Kahn</b> (CVPA)  <b>Dianka Curtis</b> (Carter School)  <b>Julie Shedd</b> (Carter School)  <b>Karina Korostelina</b> (Carter School)  <b>Holly Park</b> (CHHS)  <b>Lillian de Jonge</b> (CHHS)  <b>Rosemary Higgins</b> (CHHS)  <b>Diane Spence</b> (SBUS)  <b>Jean-Pierre Auffret</b> (SBUS)  <b>Maggie Kebe</b> (SBUS)  <b>Eamonn Kelly</b> (CEHD)  <b>Jessica Guzzo</b> (CEHD)  <b>Arthur Pyster</b> (CEC)  <b>Kim Goodwin-Slater</b> (CEC)                 </p>	<p> <b>Terri Mancini</b> (CEC)  <b>Zhisheng Yan</b> (CEC)  <b>Blake Silver</b> (CHSS)  <b>Brook Gowl</b> (CHSS)  <b>Janice Cohen</b> (CHSS)  <b>Michele Schwietz</b> (CHSS)  <b>Nuno Garoupa</b> (Law)  <b>Kate Daie</b> (COS)  <b>Meghan St. George</b> (COS)  <b>Monique Van Hoek</b> (COS)  <b>Pat Gillevet</b> (COS)  <b>Angela Warren</b> (SCHAR)  <b>Naoru Koizumi</b> (SCHAR)                 </p>
<p><b>PI Advisory Group</b></p>	<p> <b>Dr. Parag Chitnis</b> (CEC)  <b>Dr. Rebekah Hersch</b> (RII)  <b>Dr. Amy Hutchison</b> (CEHD)  <b>Dr. Naoru Koizumi</b> (SCHAR)  <b>Dr. Lance Liotta</b> (COS)                 </p>	<p> <b>Dr. Cynthia Lum</b> (CHSS)  <b>Dr. Kamaljeet Sanghera</b> (CEC)  <b>Dr. Monique Van Hoek</b> (COS)  <b>Dr. Ali Weinstein</b> (CHHS)                 </p>

# User Acceptance Testing Team

<b>Academic Units</b>	<b>Rhonda Troutman (COS)</b> <b>Heather Longest (CEHD)</b> <b>Pam Ivey (CEHD)</b> <b>Donna Senator (CEHD)</b> <b>Mike Washburn (CEC)</b>	<b>Becky Warden (CHHS)</b> <b>Joshua Fleck (CHHS)</b> <b>Ryan Pryke (SCHAR)</b> <b>Angela Warren (SCHAR)</b> <b>Maggie Kebe (SBUS)</b>
<b>OSP Pre-Award</b>	<b>Joanne Carter</b> <b>Andrew Sprecher</b> <b>Carly Curran</b>	<b>Regis Saxton</b> <b>Jennifer Kasparian</b> <b>Jennifer Stromberg</b>
<b>OSP Post-Award</b>	<b>Kevin Brooks</b> <b>Liz Hale</b>	<b>Dan Porter</b> <b>Josh Bowen</b>
<b>OSP Contracts</b>	<b>Kim Jervey</b> <b>Lindsay Gilbreath</b>	<b>Karen Gentry</b>
<b>Reviewers</b>	<b>Maggie Ewell (OSP)</b> <b>Jessica Guzzo (CEHD)</b> <b>Angie Railey (OSP)</b> <b>Eileen Gallagher (OSP)</b> <b>Michele Schwietz (CHSS)</b> <b>Janice Cohen (CHSS)</b>	<b>Rashmi Pershad (CHSS)</b> <b>Terri Mancini (CEC)</b> <b>Meghan St. George (COS)</b> <b>Holly Park (CHHS)</b> <b>Diane Spence (SBUS)</b>
<b>Other OSP</b>	<b>Heather Scruggs (Billing)</b> <b>Gio Hernandez (Financial Reporting/Closeout)</b> <b>Jennifer Fortney (System/Business Processes)</b>	<b>Yolanda Tamayo (Subcontracts)</b> <b>Kimberly Maze (Reporting)</b>

# RAMP Communications and Outreach

Communication	Details
<b>RAMP Kick-off Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2021</li> <li>• Approximately 120 participants including Associate Deans, Faculty, and other key stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>RAMP Project Website</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://ramp.gmu.edu">https://ramp.gmu.edu</a></li> <li>• Background and information about the RAMP project</li> <li>• Communicates status, updates, and important project information</li> </ul>
<b>Regular Stakeholder Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide project updates, receive input, answer questions, get buy-in and support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Council</li> <li>• OSP Advisory Group</li> <li>• RAMP Project Leadership and Core Teams</li> <li>• Research Administration Executive Committee and Working Group</li> <li>• Academic Representatives Committee (Reps from each College/School including faculty)</li> <li>• PI Advisory Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Faculty Senate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with Research Committee in September 2021 and Full Faculty Senate in November 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Executive Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated in October 2021, March 2022</li> </ul>
<b>University-wide Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research ListServ</li> <li>• Articles sent in Provost newsletter (2/23/22) and Staff Senate (3/9/22)</li> <li>• Town Hall meeting (4/14/22)</li> </ul>
<b>Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizing MasonLeaps with videos and quick reference guides</li> </ul>

# Communications Resources

- [RAMP.GMU.EDU](https://ramp.gmu.edu)
- [RAMP Information Sheet](#)
- [Funding Proposal Smartforms](#)
- [Provost Newsletter](#)
- [Introduction to RAMP Video](#)

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY | Research Administration Management Portal**

**What is RAMP?**  
RAMP is a new software tool designed to support research administration processes. It will replace multiple outdated systems with a modern, integrated, web-based solution from Huron Research Suite. Huron is a leader in the research administration software market with more than 50% of R1 universities having already implemented this tool to enhance their research administration processes. RAMP will be comprised of six modules including:

- ✓ Grants
- ✓ Agreements
- ✓ Conflict of Interest
- ✓ Export Control
- ✓ IACUC
- ✓ IRB

**What are the benefits of RAMP?**

REDUCED BURDEN	IMPROVED ACCESS	SINGLE PLATFORM AND BETTER REPORTING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reducing administrative burden on faculty and staff</li><li>• Streamlining sponsored research business processes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easier access and better user experience for faculty and research administrators</li><li>• Improving workflow transparency to track record status and next steps</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing a single platform for all of Mason's research applications</li><li>• Enabling better reporting and decision making</li></ul>

**When will RAMP be available?**  
The RAMP modules will be implemented in a multi-phased approach over the next two years with the first modules, Grants and Agreements, targeted for implementation in July 2022.

2020	2021				2022				2023				2024
Dec	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan
Discovery & Assessment													
			Grants										
			Agreements										
							COI						
										Export			
											IACUC		
												IRB	

# RAMP Training

- Training Team – develops training strategy and meets bi-weekly to review materials
- Utilizing MasonLeaps to host training materials and develop curriculums by role
  - **Search for “RAMP” in MasonLeaps**
- Series of Short Videos and Quick Reference Guides
  - Working on budget tools to complement funding proposal budget user guide
- Currently testing videos and guides during User Acceptance Testing

The screenshot shows a web interface for a training curriculum. At the top, there are tabs for 'Learning' and 'Performance'. The main header is 'RAMP: PI/Study Staff Curriculum' with an 'Options' dropdown. Below the header, a description states: 'Training curriculum designed for GMU Faculty, Study Staff, and Research Administrators on use of the Research Administration Management Portal (RAMP)'. The curriculum is organized into four modules, each with a 'View Details' button:

- Introduction to RAMP**: Completed: 0, Min Required: 1, Total Items: 1
- General System Navigation**: Completed: 1, Min Required: 4, Total Items: 4
- Grants Module: Funding Proposals**: Completed: 0, Min Required: 6, Total Items: 6
- Grants Module: Sponsor Responses/Requests**: Completed: 0, Min Required: 2, Total Items: 2

A sidebar on the left lists the curriculum items with radio buttons: INTRODUCTION TO RAMP, GENERAL SYSTEM NAVIGATION, GRANTS MODULE: FUNDING PROPOSALS, GRANTS MODULE: SPONSOR RESPONSES/REQUESTS, GRANTS MODULE: AWARDS, and AGREEMENTS MODULE.

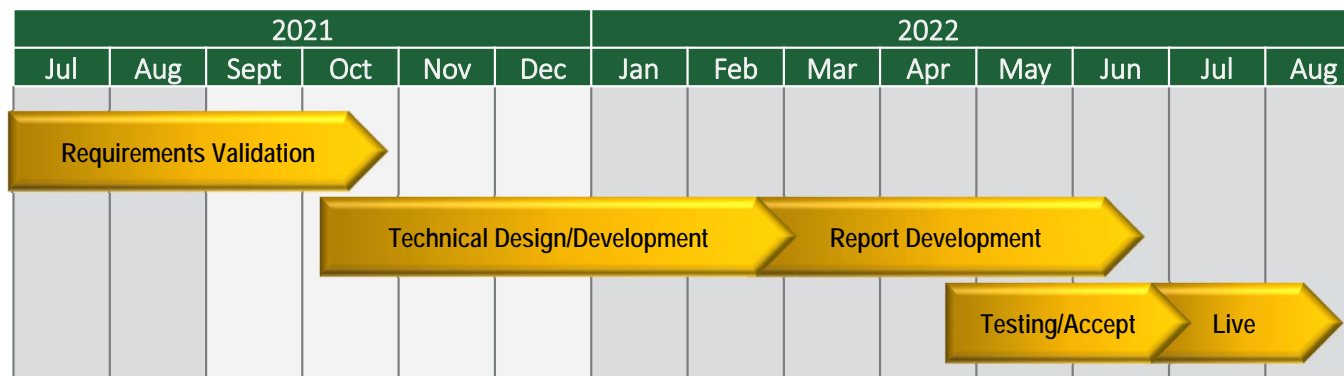
# Research Administration Project

- Nearly all R1 universities have capable research administrators supporting faculty locally, either in departments, schools, or centers
- Clear roles and responsibilities and streamlined business process will **improve overall efficiency** and **reduce administrative burden on faculty**
- University Finance is directly supporting this activity by providing financial assistance for new or recent hires over a four-year period
- Partnering with Human Resources to create job classes that will **improve retention** and **quality of workforce** and develop a more flexible recruiting strategy
- We will pilot before rolling out campus wide
- This will be an iterative process; feedback is critical
- **Goal is for faculty to spend more time on active research**



# Research Reporting

- Improving the quality and availability of reporting across the research community to enable **data-driven decision-making**
- Establishing an integrated, robust data warehouse solution with MicroStrategy in collaboration with ITS
- First phase of prioritized reports planned to be delivered and aligned with the implementation of the RAMP Grants and Agreements modules
- Example reports: Current & Pending, Proposal Summary



QUESTIONS?





**HANK YOU!**

For more information, visit [RAMP.GMU.EDU](http://RAMP.GMU.EDU)

Additional questions can be sent to [RAMP@gmu.edu](mailto:RAMP@gmu.edu)